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Libya hopeful of OAU support

CAIRO (AFP) — Libyan Foreign Secretary Omar Al Muntassir said Tuesday he was hopeful that the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit would support Libya in its dispute with the West over the Lockerbie bombing. "We are hopeful that the OAU will support us with a resolution calling for a solution of the dispute," Mr. Muntassir told AFP. He said he also hoped for "a positive reaction" from the United States to Libya's offer to hand over to black American leader Jesse Jackson two Libyan suspects indicted in the West for the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, which claimed 270 lives. He said two Libyan ambassadors had discussed the 1989 bombing of a French airliner in which Libya is also accused of involvement, with French President Francois Mitterrand's advisor on African affairs Brund Delay on the sidelines of the OAU summit in Cairo. Mr. Delay is a guest at the summit, due to end Wednesday. "We want a French judge to come to Tripoli and confer with the Libyan judge handling the case," he said. "Unfortunately the first time the French judge came he arrived aboard a battleship and that's why we did not allow him in," Mr. Muntassir said. "We are now trying to convince him to come back with civilian transportation."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Volume 17 Number 5344

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1993 MUHARRAM 10, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

EC sends JD 21.3m to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — European Community (EC) delegate to Jordan Renato Batti Tuesday announced an EC decision to transfer to the Jordanian treasury a sum of JD 21.3 million, which is part of a JD 44 million financial assistance to the Kingdom. Mr. Batti, who made the announcement at a meeting with acting Finance Minister Walid Asfour, said the agreement on financial aid was signed last September. Mr. Asfour voiced Jordan's appreciation to the EC for its continued economic assistance to Jordan.

EC official due July 4

AMMAN (I.T.) — European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner for Development and Cooperation Manuel Marin, will visit Jordan July 4-7, 1993. He will be accompanied by Mr. Eberhard Rhein, director, directorate general for external economic affairs, and Mr. Georges Ponette, a senior aide to Mr. Marin. During his visit Mr. Marin will hold talks with the prime minister, ministers, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committees of both Houses.

Iran threatens 'preemptive' strikes

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Tuesday threatened to launch "preemptive" strikes against Iranian rebels based in Iraq. Hassan Rowhani, secretary of Iran's National Security Council, said Tehran could launch preemptive strikes on the Mujahadeen rebels rather than wait to be attacked, the official IRNA news agency said. Mr. Rowhani gave no other details about the policy change. The Mujahadeen frequently launch guerrilla attacks on Iranian oil industry and other targets from bases in Iraq. Iran has retaliated with air strikes on these bases, the last of which was May 25.

Iraqi oil talks to resume next week

GENEVA (R) — High-level talks between the United Nations and Iraq over Iraqi oil sales will resume next week in New York, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday. She said U.N. Security-General Boutros Ghali was "confident" an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush and a retaliatory U.S. missile attack on Baghdad "will not constitute an obstacle to the progress of the negotiations."

Rabin arrives in the Netherlands

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived here Tuesday for talks with Dutch leaders expected to focus on ties between his country and the European Community (EC), having earlier called for more EC cash for Palestinian refugees.

FAO official arrives

AMMAN (I.T.) — A senior official from the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) arrived in Amman Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials on forestry and pasture affairs. Dr. M.K. Muthoo, director, Forestry Operations, is scheduled to meet senior officials at the ministries of planning and agriculture and the resident U.N. representative in Amman, Osman Hashem. At a dinner hosted by M.M. Pant, a senior FAO official based in Amman, Dr. Muthoo promised Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal that FAO fully supported Jordan's economic reform programme and would continue to support the Kingdom.

Russia to veto lifting of Bosnia embargo

MOSCOW (R) — Russia will veto any United Nations attempt to lift an embargo on military supplies to Bosnian Muslims, a senior official said Tuesday. Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamshin told reporters in the parliament building that Russian representatives in the United Nations had been instructed to vote against any resolution to lift the embargo (see Bosnia story on page 6).

Tension runs high in Baghdad amid fears of new attack

Iraq tells U.S. it has right to retaliate; nervous Iraqis fire at own plane

Combined agency dispatches

ANTI-AIRCRAFT fire erupted over Baghdad Tuesday when gunners, fearing the United States was striking again after last weekend's air raid, mistakenly shot at an Iraqi plane. A local radio station said the plane was misidentified as an American fighter. It was not known if it was hit.

"When the other anti-aircraft gunners heard the firing they joined in," said a spokesman at Dar Al Salam (House of Peace) radio, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

The incident followed a U.S. cruise missile attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters Sunday in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former President George Bush during his triumphal visit to Kuwait in April.

Mr. Bush commanded the U.S.-led alliance that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

Tuesday's firing highlighted the tension among Iraqis who, embittered by the deaths of at least eight civilians in the latest raid, fear the Americans might strike Baghdad again.

"Tell me when they are going to attack," one Iraqi begged a Westerner.

Official newspapers said the United States would attack again on the pretext of Iraq's refusal to let the United Nations install monitoring cameras at missile test sites.

"There's no change" in Baghdad's position regarding the request made on June 4, according to Jaakko Vitto, representing the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on dismantling Iraq's U.N. sources in Baghdad, however, say the Iraqis are taking

the row over the cameras very seriously and are "evacuating equipment from strategic installations."

The United Nations has also warned Baghdad of unspecified serious consequences if it violates the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border recently demarcated by a U.N. commission. Iraq does not accept the commission's findings (See page 10).

Washington has said the weekend raid sent a message to Iraq to stop sponsoring "terrorism."

Iraq has denied the plot but responded to the warning with tough talk, saying that striking U.S. interests was the only way to deter American "aggression" against Baghdad.

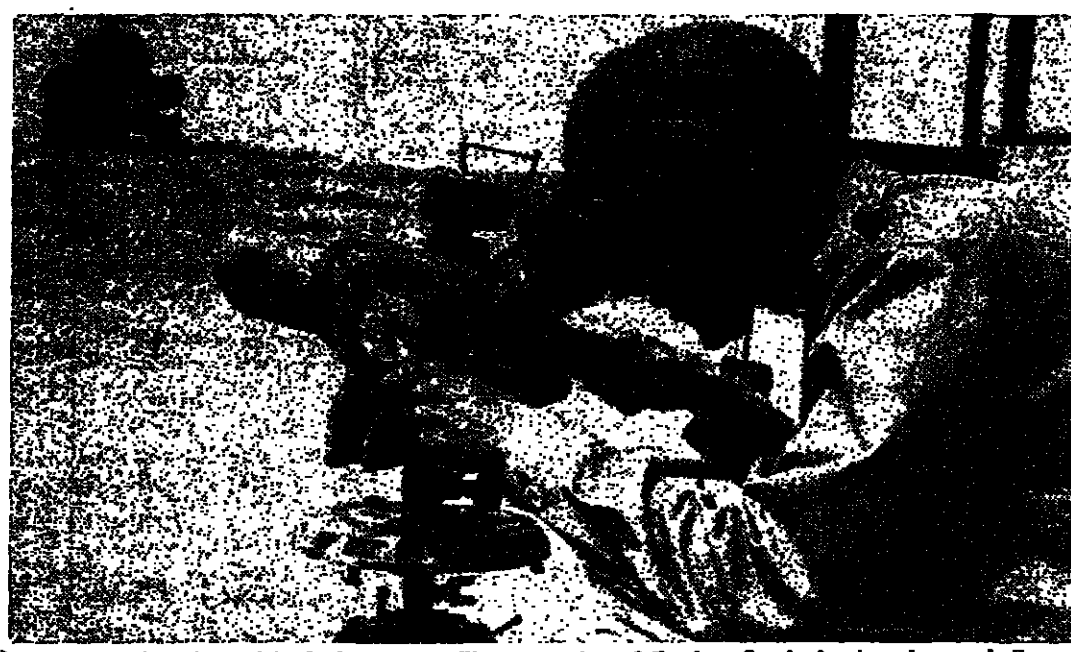
"By virtue of their upbringing and nature, the Americans understand only the logic of force," Nouri Al Marsoumi, senior under-secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Information, said in an article about the attack.

Mr. Marsoumi, writing in the Defence Ministry newspaper, said that if the missile attack went unpunished, Washington would be more likely to make further strikes.

Iraq said Tuesday it had warned the U.S. government of its right to retaliate for Sunday's missile strike.

Iraq U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, delivered a message to his U.S. counterpart Madeleine Albright saying that Iraq had the "complete right" to retaliate for "this unjustified attack" the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The message said the United States bore complete responsibility for the consequences of the crimes against the people in Iraq



An Iraqi soldier takes a sight during desert military exercises following Sunday's American missile strike on Baghdad (AFP photo)

and throughout the world, according to INA.

The attack against the Iraqi intelligence services headquarters is a "violation of the United Nations Charter and a terrorist act aimed at terrifying the Iraqis and their leaders."

The agency also reported what it said was a U.S. message given by Ms. Albright to Mr. Hamdoun.

The message said the United States, after a long investigation, was convinced that Iraq had organized and tried to assassinate Mr. Bush.

The U.S. message stressed that Washington considered the attempt as a direct attack which called for direct retaliation, according to INA.

It also warned Iraq against any action endangering American lives and interests or those of their allies in the world, INA said.

The Los Angeles Times said U.S. intelligence concluded that Saddam Hussein ordered the attempt to assassinate Mr. Bush.

The Times quoted unidentified senior government officials as saying the evidence of President Saddam's involvement was circumstantial but compelling.

"It is inconceivable that an operation like this, conducted by Iraqi intelligence, could have been done without Saddam Hussein ordering it," one senior official said.

A Clinton administration official, speaking on condition of

anonymity, told the Associated Press on Monday night that the government had no specific evidence that the plot was ordered by President Saddam himself.

But the official said U.S. analysts assumed that nothing of that nature could be launched in so tightly controlled a country without the president's approval.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said an entire wing of the walled Iraqi intelligence compound had been destroyed in the U.S. raid.

"We took out the wing of it that we think has the main computers in it, has the office of the head of the operation," Mr. Christopher said in an interview

(Continued on page 10)

Federal rule ordered for Punjab

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's parliament gave Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif a mandate Tuesday to clamp federal rule in his troubled home province of Punjab, amid a protest walkout by the opposition. The government moved an emergency resolution at a special joint session of the two houses of parliament after a second dissolution of the Punjab assembly by a hostile provincial governor just 24 hours previously. The resolution called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to issue the necessary proclamation for the assumption of powers of the provincial administration by the federal government. Under the constitution, the president is obliged to obey. Carried by 145 votes to seven, the resolution enables Islamabad to take over "all powers exercisable by both the governor and the government of Punjab." It also called for replacement of the provincial governor, Chaudhury Altaf Hussain, who twice dissolved the Punjab assembly in a month since his appointment by the president, the second time in defiance of a court ruling. Mr. Hussain was nominated governor of Pakistan's most populous and politically important province after Mr. Ishaq Khan backed by former Premier Benazir Bhutto, sacked Mr. Sharif and dissolved the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament, on April 18, amid a power struggle with the premier.

Clinton says Iraq definitely behind plot; radar attacked

PRESIDENT CLINTON Tuesday said evidence clearly indicates the Iraqi government ordered the assassination attempt against former President George Bush.

Speaking just after Pentagon reports of a U.S. plane firing on an Iraqi anti-aircraft installation, Mr. Clinton said the possibility of improved relations with Baghdad were "very difficult to conceive" if Saddam Hussein "persists in his stubborn refusal" to heed international law.

Mr. Clinton shrugged off a suggestion that Tuesday's targeting of the U.S. plane by Iraqi radar was linked to Baghdad's vow to retaliate for the weekend missile strike.

The Pentagon said a U.S. F-4G Wild Weasel immediately fired an anti-radar missile at the Iraqi installation.

"I wouldn't read too much into it," Mr. Clinton said.

The president said U.S. pilots in the region are authorized to fire at radar sites if they are targeted, and noted there had been several similar incidents since the end of the Gulf war.

The last such incident was in April.

Mr. Clinton refused to say outright that the United States had evidence President Saddam directly ordered the assassination of Mr. Bush.

But he said: "We believe the evidence clearly indicates that the bombing operation was authorized by the Iraqi government... our analysts have no experience of such an operation of that magnitude being authorized other

than at the highest levels." Mr. Clinton met with reporters after a White House meeting with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, who stood by for much of the news conference as Mr. Clinton was peppered with questions about Iraq.

Mr. Clinton defended the weekend U.S. strike as the appropriate response to evidence that Iraq tried to kill Mr. Bush when the former president visited Kuwait in April.

"The best possible target was the target of the intelligence operation... where in all probability the operation was planned," Mr. Clinton said. He said the strike, using 23 Tomahawk cruise missiles, "sends the appropriate message given the facts of this case."

Iraq said meanwhile U.S. fighter planes attacked an unactivated anti-aircraft battery in southern Iraq and a soldier was wounded in the raid.

"Two U.S. F-15 planes committed a cowardly act of aggression and provocation at 6:05 p.m. today," the foreign affairs ministry said in a statement.

It said the planes launched an air-to-surface missile from an eight-kilometre altitude against an anti-aircraft battery in Basra, wounding a soldier.

"The battery was not opened. This unwarranted act of aggression offers new proof of the U.S. policy of aggression against Iraq," the statement said.

The Iraqi statement repeated Baghdad's stand that the "no-fly zone, set up in southern Iraq after the Gulf war, was illegal."

U.S. urges negotiators to push for progress in peace talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The United States told negotiators in Middle East peace talks here Tuesday that it was urgent for them to make progress and warned that Washington could not make progress for them.

Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, said the United States remains fully involved in the tenth round of bilateral talks. The current round of negotiations, which end Thursday, have not so far rendered any results.

"We think it is very important to make progress now," he said, especially for the Israelis and Palestinians to reach an agreement on interim arrangements for self-government in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Israel began a new session of talks with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians Tuesday.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, told reporters upon arriving at the State Department that his country would welcome any U.S. official who may visit the Middle East to advance the peace talks.

U.S. officials have indicated that Dennis Ross, the special coordinator for the talks, was likely to visit the Middle East soon.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said no agreement is possible on self-rule for Palestinians if they insist on including Jerusalem in a deal.

"Listen, there is no point going further. If they demand Jerusalem, they can forget about the chances of an agreement," Mr. Rabin said in an interview published on Tuesday in the French newspaper Le Monde.

He reiterated that Jerusalem was "part of Israel" and could not be placed under Palestinian jurisdiction during a proposed five-year interim period of self-government.

"The city is our capital, united under our sovereignty. There will be no compromise of any kind on this issue," said Mr. Rabin, who begins an official visit to France Wednesday.

accord that excludes Arab East Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin indicated Jerusalem might be discussed in a second stage, after three years of Palestinian self-government.

"In the second stage of negotiations, those participating will be able to try and raise all the questions they want," he said.

Mr. Rabin, who closed off the occupied territories from Israel three months ago after a spate of attacks on Israelis, said he would not restore the previous situation when 120,000 Palestinians entered Israel daily to work.

He said 50,000 Palestinians were now allowed to work in Israel, and cutting the numbers had put an end to abuse from Israeli employers who used to hire Palestinians illegally.

He said he would not make any exception for occupied Jerusalem.

Palestinians again raised the question of the status of East Jerusalem, during Monday's talks.

"Jerusalem is a key issue — Israel is totally blocking any effort to bridge the gap," said the deputy chief of the Palestinian delegation, Saeb Erakat, as he left a meeting at the State Department.

The Palestinian negotiator denounced Mr. Rabin's comment that he ruled out any compromise on Jerusalem.

Dr. Erakat said such statements were the gap between Israel and the Palestinians.

The question came up again later Monday as U.N. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Palestinian delegation chief Faisal Hussein, a Palestinian source said (see page 2).

high that, God forbid, they could turn on each other," he added.

To try to prevent that both sides need to limit the police force to the highest caliber men, Mr. Shalal said, noting that Israel hoped to avoid vetting the men trained by the Palestinians.

He said that one of the most difficult questions facing such a force was whether it could maintain contacts with its Israeli counterparts without being accused of collaboration.

Mr. Shalal said it was still premature to outline details about the force, like its size or exactly how the activities would be divided between Israel's army, police and the autonomy force.

Syria meanwhile accused Israel of intransigence at Middle East peace talks and said hopes for progress in the 10th round had collapsed.

Official Syrian newspapers urged the United States to put pressure on Israel to make concessions.

"Incidents witnessed in the world now confirm the American long arm is able, when it wants, to tame anyone it considers an outlaw," said Al Baath, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, indirectly referring to the U.S. missile attack on Iraq.

"Until when will the U.S. continue to forgive its Israeli child," it asked.

The newspaper said "all hopes for any progress in the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks going now in Washington had collapsed due to the Israeli intransigent position."

Another official daily, the Syria Times, said: "Moving forward on the road of peace needs and means pressure on the Jewish state."

It said the United States had given "Israeli expansionist ambitions higher priority than Arab willingness for peace."

3 Israeli soldiers wounded

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A

bomb exploded wounding two Israeli soldiers at dawn Tuesday in northern Israel while a third soldier was shot accidentally by colleagues in the occupied Gaza Strip, military sources said.

The two soldiers were lightly hurt when their jeep drove over the device close to the "green line" border with the West Bank. The army imposed a curfew on the area, including the Arab village of Arabouna, and carried out a search.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the blast.

The group said in a statement it would "continue the armed fight against the Israeli enemy in the occupied territories."

Meanwhile a soldier on foot patrol was wounded by another army patrol in Nusseirat camp on Monday night, the military sources said.

An investigation into the shooting was underway after "wrong orders" had been issued to the two patrols from the same unit.

Sudan denies link with bomb plots

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese

leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir denied Tuesday that his government had any link with five Sudanese arrested in the United States last week for plotting bombings and assassinations of world leaders.

"All we know about the case is what we heard on the media. Until now the American authorities have not officially informed us about this operation, its details, the names of people charged," Lieutenant General Bashir told reporters. He was in Cairo to attend an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit.

"The names (given) are not known to us, and to our various specialised networks," he said.

The Sudanese were among eight suspects arrested in New York last Thursday. Police said five were caught as they mixed chemicals to make a bomb.

They were charged with plotting to bomb the United Nations headquarters and planning to assassinate politicians including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"We doubt that the men arrested are of Sudanese origin but they may have obtained Sudanese passports from a certain party. This is a campaign to tarnish the image of Sudan," Gen. Bashir said.

An American television network reported last week that two Sudanese at Khartoum's United Nations mission in New York were suspected of links with the arrested people.

Gen. Bashir denied his country was exporting Islamic revolutionary ideas or supporting Muslim militants in Egypt, saying a wave of violence in Egypt was an internal affair.

"We confirm a second and third time that we have nothing to do with the developments taking place in Egypt. We are ready to sit and talk frankly with the Egyptian side and let everyone say all he wants to clear the atmosphere and mend fences in relations," Gen. Bashir said.

He said Khartoum was not training Egyptian militants, arguing that Egyptians learned all the skills they needed during their compulsory military service.

"The accusations against Sudan are part of the campaign to disgrace the image of Sudan. We are not exporting the revolution either to Egypt or to any other place," Gen. Bashir added.

The Sudanese head of state said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was trying to broker a reconciliation between him and

Mr. Mubarak. He said he hoped to meet Mr. Mubarak during the summit to discuss all outstanding issues, including a dispute over the Halab triangle on the desert border between Sudan and Egypt (see page 2).

Suspect denied bail

A Sudanese national suspected in a planned wave of New York bomb attacks was ordered held without bail Monday by a U.S. magistrate.

Prosecutors said Fadi Abdul Ghani, 31, was videotaped mixing chemicals for bombs to be used in a series of attacks on the United Nations, the building housing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in New York and two highway tunnels under the Hudson River.

"The nature and circumstances of (Abdul Ghani's) offense could not be more egregious," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew McCarthy.

Magistrate James Francis ordered Mr. Abdul Ghani, a New York cab driver, held without bail.

Mr. Abdul Ghani, who became a naturalised U.S. citizen in 1991 after marrying an American, was the first of the eight Muslim fundamentalists to appear for a bail hearing.

U.N. death toll in Somalia 31 in 25 days

MOGADISHU (Agencies) —

The U.N. death toll in the current cycle of violence in Somalia rose to 31 Tuesday when a second Pakistani peacekeeper was reported killed in a raid on a suspected ammunition dump.

Hospital sources said at least 80 Somalis have died in street riots and shootouts since gunmen killed 24 Pakistani soldiers on June 5 in an ambush that led to air strikes on warlord Mohammad Farah Aideded and constant attacks on the U.N.

Anti-U.N. leaflets put the number of Somali dead at more than 400. That figure could not be confirmed.

"This isn't going to end until the U.N. stands up and gets tough with these people. The gunmen are holding up the whole process of rebuilding this country," said Somali businesswoman Nasra Wehele.

The latest U.N. casualties were inflicted when Pakistani U.N.

troops attempted to search a suspected ammunition cache on Monday owned by Osman Atto, financier and adviser to Aideded.

U.N. sources said the body of a second Pakistani killed in the raid was delivered to a hospital in Mogadishu overnight. Residents said they had seen a Pakistani corpse, stripped of its uniform, lying in the road where the attack took place.

Twenty-seven Pakistanis and four Moroccan soldiers have been killed over the past 25 days.

The United Nations said at least two Somali gunmen were killed and several wounded when U.N. Cobra attack helicopters went to the rescue of Pakistanis under fire from rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Witnesses said one Somali woman was killed by shrapnel that hit her in the head.

U.N. spokesman Major David

Stockwell said he did not know if the troops had succeeded in searching Mr. Atto's compound and left open the possibility that U.N. forces would make another attempt to search it as part of a continued crackdown.

Aideded appeals to OAU

Gen. Aideded has urged African leaders in Cairo for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit to demand an end to U.N. strikes against him.

In a letter to the summit obtained by AFP on Tuesday, Gen. Aideded accused the United Nations of endangering the lives of Somali civilians.

"To arbitrarily wage war in Africa in the name of peace, with no reference even to the OAU, surely this can neither be tolerated nor allowed to become a pattern," the letter said.

It urged the OAU summit "to use its good offices to halt the

escalation of violence and will take steps to rule out any chance of its repetition."

The U.N. has ordered Gen. Aideded arrest for the June 5 killings of Pakistanis.

The warlord's followers vowed to kill 1,500 Americans after U.S.-led strikes against the warlord's headquarters.

In his open letter to the summit, Gen. Aideded complained that the world press had dubbed him a warlord, which he said was "a term from Chinese history of no relevance to Africa."

The three-page letter recalled the role of Gen. Aideded, a former ambassador to India, in the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohamud Siad Barre.

It said Gen. Aideded had worked for "peace, liberty and prosperity" in Somalia, without a government and plagued by clan fighting and famine since Mr. Siad Barre was toppled.

Middle East News

China denies selling weapons to Mideast

BEIJING (Agencies) — China dismissed as "sheer fabrication" Tuesday U.S. allegations of continued arms sales to Pakistan, Syria and Iran in violation of a pledge made in 1991. Xinhua news agency reported.

Since late 1992, repeated reports have surfaced of sales of M-11 missiles to Pakistan despite China's promise one year earlier to the then-U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to abide by the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

M-9 missiles are also suspected to have been sold to other sensitive countries like Syria and Iran. "This is sheer fabrication. China has long undertaken to abide by the guidelines and parameters of MTCR. This position of China remains unchanged," the official agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying of the allegations.

The MTC restricts sales of missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometres and a payload capacity of more than 400 kilograms.

The Chinese M-11 is a long-range, surface-to-surface missile with a range of 1,000 kilometres and an 800-kilogramme payload capacity.

In late 1992, U.S. intelligence determined that China was openly selling missiles to Pakistan to take full advantage of the closing months of George Bush's administration, in the belief that the incoming Clinton administration would be less forgiving.

In May, the New York Times quoted unnamed U.S. officials as saying satellite photos of the Pakistani port Karachi showed Chinese shipments of M-11 missiles were continuing. The United States is concerned the missile

could be used to carry several nuclear bombs that Pakistan is believed to have developed.

No result in Israeli effort

Israel has gained no result in its effort to dissuade communist North Korea from selling medium-range missiles to Iran, South Korean officials said in Seoul Tuesday.

Quoting Israel's explanation of the two sides' meeting in Beijing last Friday, the officials said North Korea's delegation denied selling missiles to Iran, and instead asked Israel to buy one of its gold mines for \$1 billion.

The two sides parted without setting a date for further talks, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

North Korea was reported to have made the same request about the gold mine last October when Eytan Bensur, a deputy director-general in Israel's foreign ministry, visited Pyongyang.

North Korea makes a medium-range missile called Rodong-1, or Scud-D, with a range of 1,000 kilometres. The missile can reach Israel from western Iran, and western Japan from North Korea.

Despite its denial, economically troubled North Korea has been reported earning an estimated \$1 billion a year from missile sales to Iran.

South Korean officials said Israel may hold further talks with North Korea, although no date has been set. Israel and North Korea have no formal diplomatic relations.

Israel has repeatedly warned that Iran's military build-up threatens not only Israel's security but also Western interests.

Analysts doubt missile attack will stop Iraqi intelligence activities

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. missile strike against Iraq may temporarily disrupt the Iraqi intelligence network but almost certainly will not stop it from using it for its purposes, U.S. analysts said Monday.

"It would not have seriously inhibited," Iraq's intelligence capability, said Anthony Cordesman, a leading specialist in Iraq and Middle Eastern military affairs.

Mr. Cordesman and other analysts said Iraq's intelligence network is pervasive, with many of roughly half a dozen intelligence services performing similar — sometimes overlapping — functions.

The compound that the U.S. missiles attacked contains the headquarters building of what the Defence Department calls the Iraqi intelligence service, or IIS, it is the largest of Iraq's intelligence agencies.

Michael Eisenstadt, a specialist in Iraqi military affairs at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the IIS is Iraq's main organiser and executor of "foreign operations."

He said it also has an internal security role shared by other organisations, including a military intelligence agency and a general security agency.

Mr. Eisenstadt and others took issue with President Clinton's statement Monday that the U.S. attack, in which 16 Tomahawks struck their targets inside the walled headquarters compound in downtown Baghdad, was a crippling blow.

Mr. Clinton told reporters that a report from his national security advisers confirmed that "we did

in fact cripple the Iraqi intelligence capacity."

Mr. Eisenstadt said he believed that Mr. Clinton had exaggerated the effect of the attack, which was retaliation for what Clinton described as compelling evidence that Iraq was behind a foiled plot to assassinate former President George Bush in Kuwait.

Pentagon officials said Sunday that the missiles had inflicted heavy damage on the "leadership wing" of the IIS headquarters building — the area occupied by the top intelligence officials, none of whom apparently was present at the time.

The missiles also struck nearby buildings housing the IIS communications and computer operations, and a conference centre, Pentagon officials said.

David Kay, who headed a United Nations special commission that inspected Iraq's nuclear programme after the Gulf war, said Monday the only way to seriously damage Iraq is to get rid of the intelligence leaders.

"I don't think you cripple any Iraqi operation if you just hit a building when people aren't there," he said. "The strength of any intelligence operation isn't a building, it's in the people" who run it.

The IIS had a strong hand in Iraq's elaborate system for purchasing materials and components abroad for its secret programme to develop nuclear weapons, Mr. Kay and others said.

Defence Secretary Les Aspin Saturday said IIS had responsibility for investigating and acting against suspected dissidents inside Iraq. He said it is the primary agency responsible for attacks abroad.

Christopher holds talks with Hussein

WASHINGTON (R) — With the latest round of Middle East peace talks beginning to wind down, Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein Monday in an effort to move the peace process forward.

The meeting between Mr. Christopher and Mr. Hussein, overall head of the Palestinian delegation, took place as Palestinians and Israelis began the last week of the 10th round of talks unable to bridge their differences on how to hammer out a joint declaration of principles.

"They met alone and discussed a range of issues from (Israeli) human rights violations to the subject of Jerusalem," a Palestinian close to the team told Reuters.

U.S. officials confirmed Mr. Christopher had met Mr. Hussein but refused to elaborate on the 30-minute meeting at the State Department.

The 10th round of talks, which began June 15, is scheduled to end on Thursday. The talks were inaugurated in late 1991 at an international conference in Madrid.

In addition to the Palestinians, Israel is also negotiating with

Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

In a related development, U.S. officials strongly hinted Monday that Dennis Ross, the recently appointed special coordinator for the talks, would travel to the Middle East in the near future to gauge the possibility of "taking decisions" that would move the peace process forward.

One official said Mr. Ross's trip was not imminent in that Mr. Ross has not yet "bought a ticket and got his visa."

But when asked if Mr. Christopher was likely to visit the Middle East only after Mr. Ross has determined what possibilities for progress existed, the official said facetiously: "Does someone think that, based on what I said."

Mr. Christopher visited the Middle East last February in a bid to restart the talks, which were suspended after Israel forced more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to Lebanon two months earlier.

The secretary last week said he was personally following up the negotiations in line with his promise that Washington would play the role of "full partner" in the talks.

Palestinians and Israelis have

so far failed to make any headway on their common objective of completing a joint declaration of principles outlining future powers and jurisdiction of a future Palestinian authority in the occupied territories.

The two sides are negotiating a five-year interim period of self-rule for the two million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But both sides have been deadlocked on whether Arab East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, would be part of a future Palestinian authority.

Israel refuses to discuss the future of East Jerusalem at this time while Palestinians rule out any agreement that does not include the city.

Palestinians and Israelis have been expecting the United States to offer a bridging proposal sometime this week.

But State Department spokesman Mike McCurry, asked whether the United States intends to present written proposals this week, said: "I wouldn't categorically rule it out, but I don't want to suggest that there's one imminent or forthcoming either."

Dine forced to quit as AIPAC head

The Jerusalem Post

TOM Dine, the man who built Israel's lobby in the U.S. into a political powerhouse over the last 13 years, has been forced to resign because of offensive remarks he made about haredim in a recently published book, sources say.

Dine, executive director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), was reportedly asked to resign by president Steven Grossman on Friday, after consultations with the organisation's board. While the remarks about haredim precipitated Dine's departure, sources said there were other contributing factors.

Grossman, however, insisted the decision to step down was Dine's. "Tom has always put his own interests behind those of the U.S.-Israeli relationship and the organisation," he said. "Tom felt his own effectiveness has been under cut by the publication of the book. After great soul-searching, he made the decision. He has served this organisation with great distinction. He has left a great legacy for us to build on

after 13 years."

In *Power and Piety: The World of Jewish Fundamentalism*, by David Landau, a former managing editor of The Jerusalem Post, Dine was quoted as saying, "I don't think mainstream Jews feel very comfortable with the ultra-Orthodox. It's a class thing, I suppose."

"Their image is smelly. That's what I'd say now that you've got me thinking about it. Hasids and diamond dealers. United Jewish Appeal people have told me several times they don't want to fly El Al because of 'those people.' Actually, I prefer Swissair or Lufthansa myself. But I fly El Al to Israel because it's direct. Yes, TWA flies direct, too. But it's low-class, like the Orthodox."

"Yes, that's still the image. Still the poor immigrant image. That's the perception of a lot of people I mix with."

In his letter of resignation, submitted last night and obtained by the Post, Dine wrote: "In recent days, unfortunately, a controversy has arisen, which, because of its misleading nature, is a source of deep pain for me. Four years ago an Israeli reporter, in

researching a book on Jewish fundamentalism, asked me a question regarding American Jewish stereotypical descriptions about ultra-Orthodox Jews. In answering, I characterised in an off-hand way what some elements of the community actually think. In no way did I mean those words to be interpreted as my beliefs. On the contrary, my entire personal and professional life has been devoted to the interest of the Jewish people without distinction."

Contacted last night, Landau would only say, "I stand by what I wrote in my book."

Dine yesterday said he had no immediate plans.

Dine's resignation is the latest incident to rock AIPAC over the last year. Its last president, David Steiner, was forced to resign after his boasting about AIPAC's clout in electing the next secretary of state was taped. Upon Labour's assumption of power, there were complaints that the organisation was too close to the Likud.

Grossman said Dine's deputy Howard Kohr will serve as acting director.

Sudan urges Egypt to withdraw troops

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's military ruler Tuesday urged Egypt to withdraw its soldiers from a disputed border area and to negotiate the crisis which has severely strained bilateral relations.

Omar Hassan Ali Bashir told reporters that although he believed Halab belonged to Sudan, he was willing to discuss it with President Hosni Mubarak. He said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was trying to arrange a meeting between them.

Halab is a triangular border area overlooking the Red Sea that is claimed by both countries. The decades old dispute was revived two years ago. It has worsened relations already strained by Egypt's charge that Sudan finances and trains Muslim extremists who are then exported to Egypt and other Arab countries.

"Although we are 100 per cent convinced that Halab is Sudanese, we have accepted to negotiate," said Lieutenant-General Bashir, who is in Cairo attending a summit meeting of African leaders.

He urged Mr. Mubarak to withdraw troops in the area.

PKK denies involvement in Antalya grenade attacks

HAMBURG (Agencies) — The separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) denied Tuesday all involvement in a triple grenade attack in southern Turkey which left 26 injured, including 12 foreign tourists.

The PKK's spokesman in Europe, Ali Sapan, made the denial here on German television channel ARD hours after the party's political arm called on Chancellor Helmut Kohl not to ban it in Germany.

Speaking after the three grenade explosions rocked the southern Turkish coastal town of Antalya Sunday, Mr. Sapan told ARD that he was sure the PKK, which is outlawed in Turkey and which police there blamed for the blasts, would not cause civilian casualties.

But the party would continue its armed struggle in Kurdistan and could target tourist areas, he warned.

The Kurd-Ha news agency, a virtual mouthpiece for the PKK, earlier made public in Dusseldorf a letter to Mr. Kohl from the Kurdistan National Liberation Front (ERNK) — the PKK's political arm — warning that a ban in Germany would be a "mistake."

The call coincided with a special meeting in Cologne of regional officers from the Office for Protection of the Constitution — the domestic intelligence agency

— to decide whether to recommend a ban on the PKK, whose members mounted concerted attacks on Turkish interests in Europe last week.

ERNK said the PKK had no choice but to stage "protest actions" in other countries.

"What is the alternative for the Kurdish people, whose language, culture and national rights are denied them and whose very existence is under threat?" the ERNK asked.

It added: "You speak up for minorities, sometimes of only 30,000 people and support independence and freedom for them. Why do you keep silent over the just and legitimate struggle of 40 million Kurds people?"

On June 8 PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan ended a unilateral ceasefire implemented by his party in March and pledged to "transfer the war to the cities and tourist areas" of Turkey.

The threat was reiterated in a statement distributed in Athens on June 24 that coincided with the attacks against Turkish facilities in 30 European cities.

Hostages were taken in Marseilles and Munich while a demonstrator was shot and killed outside the Turkish embassy in Bern.

Kurdish guerrillas stepped up their bloody summer offensive Monday, targeting tourists with an attack on a passenger train

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egyptian spied for girlfriend

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian arrested for allegedly spying for Israel for six years told investigators he did it so he could afford his foreign girlfriend's expensive demands, a court official said Tuesday. The Egyptian was identified as Gamal Abdul Nasser, 40, who worked as a sailor and lived in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria, said the court official who declined to be identified by name. Mr. Abdul Nasser told investigators that he needed the money for his girlfriend who lived in Cyprus. Her name and nationality were not available. He defended his actions by saying the information he gave Israel was common knowledge and did not harm Egyptian interests. He said he contacted agents of the Mossad spy agency through Israeli embassies in Cyprus and Turkey, where Egypt says it maintained surveillance of him. The alleged spy has been held for nearly 60 days, and under Egyptian law the prosecution must go to court in the next few days to ask for his renewed detention. Mr. Abdul Nasser has not been indicted yet but investigators are questioning him for spying for Israel in exchange for money and expensive gifts.

Kabul holds 'food poisoners'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan security have arrested eight people on charges of injecting poison into food in a market place, the official Kabul Radio said Monday. The broadcast said the suspects were arrested in the past two days from two Kabul districts while injecting poison into fruit and other foodstuffs. They have "confessed their crime" and said they were doing it at the behest of the Hezb-e-Wahdat party of minority Shi'ite Muslims to create panic, the radio said. Kabul's media has targeted the Iranian-backed Wahdat in recent weeks and blamed it for most of the rocket and artillery attacks on Kabul's residential areas. The Wahdat, an ally of hardline Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in his rivalry with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, denies the charge.

Cyprus may free Arab-British trio

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Cyprus general prosecutor will shortly review the sentences of two Arabs and a Briton serving life terms for killing three Israelis in 1985 and may order their release, a spokesman said Monday. The trio, Khaled Abdul Kader Al Khatib and Abdul Hakim Khalifa, both Palestinians, and Ian Michael Davidson were detained since 1985. Government spokesman Mark Cassoulides said Cyprus authorities had initially planned to free the three next September or October after granting them a presidential pardon for "good conduct" in prison. But in the meantime, the supreme court outlawed automatic reductions on grounds of good conduct for life sentences. It said life terms could not be reduced unless the general prosecutor recommended it and the president gave his approval.

U.S. concern over prisoner in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department expressed concern Monday about the condition of an imprisoned American following Saturday's cruise missile attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters. Kenneth Beatty, a worker with the Kuwait-Santa Fe Oil Company, was sentenced to eight years in prison on charges of illegally entering Iraqi territory in May. "He is the source of great concern on the part of the United States government," department spokesman Mike McCurry said. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright expressed Washington's concern about Mr. Beatty in a discussion with Iraqi U.N. envoy Nizar Hamdoun on Saturday, the day of the U.S. attack, the spokesman said. The spokesman said he was unaware of the Iraqi ambassador's response.

Diplomats visit Britons in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Two British diplomats visiting Iraq met Monday with three Britons imprisoned here for having illegally entered the country, one of the diplomats said. We did visit this morning the prisoners," Mark Legoy, who works for the British embassy in Amman, told AFP, but declined to give details. He was accompanied by Stephen Howarth, in charge of consular affairs at the Foreign Office. They visited Abu Ghraib prison, 20 kilometres west of Baghdad, where Paul Ride, Michael Wainwright and Simon Dunn are being held. He said he and Mr. Howarth did not expect to meet Iraqi officials but would rule out such an encounter. They will probably meet the prisoners a second time before their planned departure on Thursday.

Britain wanted Nadir 'kidnapped'

LONDON (R) — The president of northern Cyprus, Rauf Denktaş, said Monday British authorities wanted his police to "kidnap" Asil Nadir so that the fugitive tycoon could stand trial on theft and fraud charges. Mr. Denktaş told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) he had been asked to order his police to seize Mr. Nadir and hand him over to British soldiers at the border between the self-proclaimed Turkish-Cypriot state and the rest of the partitioned island. "They said hand him over to us at the British bases... we shall immediately fly him to England," Mr. Denktaş said in an interview from northern Cyprus, where Mr. Nadir fled last month after jumping bail in Britain over charges arising from the collapse of his Polly Pech conglomerate. "I said this is asking to kidnap him, he said I didn't use the words. I said it doesn't matter about the words this is its meaning. And he said not really." The identity of the official concerned was not clear. A spokesman for the foreign office said he had not seen the interview and had no information about any discussions between London and northern Cyprus about Mr. Nadir's return. He said the Foreign Office would look into the matter.

Cyprus buys historical documents

LONDON (AP) — The government of Cyprus has bought copies of important historical documents destroyed in a fire during the 1974 Turkish invasion of the island, auctioneers Sotheby's said. Among the documents was a book detailing the conquest of the island by Turkey in 1571, according to Patroklos Stavrou, under-secretary to the president of the Republic of Cyprus, who made the purchase on his government's behalf. Mr. Stavrou said that the purchase is part of an effort by the Cypriot government to complete their historical archives. Also in the collection, for which Mr. Stavrou paid £6,394 (£9,550), were three letters written by Archbishop Kyprianos, hanged by the Turks in 1821. Sotheby's did not name the seller.

1 executed in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A 30-year-old man who was hanged for murder, a government-run newspaper reported Tuesday. The Arabic-language Tishrin daily said Atta Bajaj killed his 60-year-old father with the help of his two brothers, who were given unspecified prison sentences as accomplices. The paper said the three brothers drugged their father with sleeping pills before running household electrical current through his body. It said the crime was reported to the police by "an informant." Upon questioning, the brothers pleaded guilty to the crime, the newspaper said. It quoted Bajaj's brothers as saying their father was ill-tempered and had long mistreated their mother. The paper said Bajaj was hanged at the town of Idlib, 275 kilometres north of Damascus. The paper gave no date for the execution. It said it took place "in the past few days."

U.N. to repatriate Somalis

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations said Tuesday it would repatriate Somali refugees in Kenya to the onetime famine-stricken town of Bardere where farming has now resumed. At the height of the famine, up to 100 civilians were dying a day in the southwestern town, said spokeswoman Sylvia Na Foa, who called Bardere "a symbol of everything horrible in Somalia." The situation in Bardere "is now such that people can go home and want to," she told a news briefing. Farming had resumed and schools were back in operation. However, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said no refugees would be sent to the capital Mogadishu or to the town of Kisumu because of security fears. In all, 330,000 Somalis are estimated to have fled war and drought for Kenya. Some 10,000 Somali refugees out of 150,000 registered with the agency have already left Kenya under a voluntary repatriation programme begun in January.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Variety
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Torkeloms
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Cruel Doubt
PRAYER TIMES	
03:53	Fajr
05:28	(Sunrise) Duha
12:29	Dhuhr
16:19	Asr
19:50	Maghreh
21:25	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810749	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627885	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775256	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 649532	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 34
Aqaba	24 / 39
Decrtes	17 / 36
Jordan Valley	22 / 37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 16 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassem Oudoumi	648633
Dr. Ghaleb Zewaid	724011
Dr. Mohammad Labada	635585
Dr. Khalil Talaq	757253
Firas pharmacy	661912
Al Azaza pharmacy	670555
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shameisat pharmacy	637660
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
AMMAN:	
Abdell Telephone Repairs	623101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	624381
REPAIRS:	
Abdell Telephone Repairs	623101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	624381

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	637777
Rescue Police	192, 01111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	834302
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	121
(directory assistance)	910230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs:	
Abdell Telephone Repairs	623101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	624381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200
Oceania Air Ind. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6

Cabinet approves publication of 2 new dailies, 3 magazines

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday approved the publication of two new Arabic dailies: Akhbar Al Yom and Akher Khabar, which will be published in Amman. It also approved the publication of two weekly magazines: a political review entitled Al Bilad; and a political and cultural periodical called Al Dawaa.

The Cabinet also approved the publication of women's and family affairs magazine, which will be published every week and called Al Bait Al Arabi (The Arab Home).

The Council of Ministers approved the establishment of diplomatic relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina at the ambassadorial level. Jordan's ambassador to Austria will serve as the Kingdom's non-resident ambassador to the former Yugoslav republic, according to a Cabinet statement.

The Council of Ministers was briefed on public health measures taken by Ministry of Interior during summer to prevent the spread of diseases.

Jordan's participation in the 50th conference of Arab countries supervising Palestinian affairs due to open in Cairo on July 26 was also approved. The delegation to the meeting will be led by Adel Isheid, head of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department.

The Cabinet announced that Jordan will take part in the second meeting of an Arab standing committee on postal affairs in Cairo, between September 14 and 16. Abdullah Al Jazi, the Ministry of Post and Communications Secretary General, will represent the Kingdom at the Cairo meeting.

Earlier Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of His Majesty King Hussein's visits to the United Kingdom and the United States and the talks he held with U.S. officials.

Official urges halt to well licences

KARAK (Petra) — A senior official at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation recently urged the government to stop issuing licences to drill artesian wells for agricultural projects, adding that everything possible should be done to protect the limited water resources in the Kingdom.

There are at present 2,028 wells that are being utilised by farmers and organisations mainly for agricultural as well as drinking purposes; any more such wells would affect the meagre resources underground, said Adnan Zoubi.

Addressing a seminar organised here by the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution (JSPEP), Mr. Zoubi urged the public to ration water consumption because the country faces continual shortage of underground and surface water. He said recycling treated wastewater would be a useful technique for irrigation.

According to 1991 estimates, Jordan annually consumes 833 million cubic metres of water for irrigation, industrial and domestic purposes, said Mr. Zoubi.

The consumption, he said, increases continually with the rise in population, the expansion of economic projects and higher standards of living.

National strategy for women adopted

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A national strategy for women in Jordan that calls for upgrading women's status by raising public awareness and amending laws inconsistent with women's rights was adopted at a conference Tuesday.

The strategy, which was the fruit of one year of arduous work, meetings and seminars in different parts of the Kingdom, is considered a guideline for the advancement of women in Jordan and will be the document presented by the Jordanian delegation to the 1995 International Women's Conference in Peking.

Drafted by the National Committee for Women's Affairs, the document is based upon consensus among the different sectors, authorities and individuals reached at several previous meetings and seminars.

The conference, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and attended by representatives of different private and public sectors, senators, deputies and women's unions, called for the adoption of a strong mechanism to implement the national strategy.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stopped by the meeting before the national strategy was approved and extended his support and encouragement, saying "In my turn, I have come to support you all for what you have achieved in the field of (human) rights."

In his short speech, the Crown Prince urged the audience to concentrate on raising public awareness of women's roles, by adopting clear and simple programmes that are comprehensive and which represent all layers of society. He said that the national strategy should have Arabic and Islamic perspectives and a humanitarian content.

Emphasis on Arabic and Islamic values was clear in the first two articles that define the basis on which the national strategy relies. The articles also say that the strategy is based upon the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter.

The overall objectives and procedures of the strategy include nearly all dimensions necessary for the enhancement of women's status in Jordan. They include: legislative, political, economic, social, and educational levels.

At the legislative level, its main objectives are to promulgate legislation and amend others to end discrimination against women in various fields. It also aims at raising public awareness of the society, particularly women's legislative and judicial rights; ameliorating legislations and laws concerning the women's role in the society; promulgating legislation that safeguards women's rights.

In one of the articles that defines the procedures to be taken to implement the above objectives, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, His Majesty King Hussein's religious affairs advisor, demanded a revision to the new amendment to the article. The article reads: "Efforts should be exerted to amend the Civil Status



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Basma Tuesday participate, in a one-day conference on forming a national strategy for women in Jordan (Petra photo)

Law, taking into consideration women's interest in accordance with clear-cut Shariah scriptures through Islamic scholars' judgement and based upon opinions of Islamic Faqih that go hand in hand with contemporary society's (needs) and development."

At the political level, the strategy called for upgrading women's participation in political life, in drawing up national policies and in occupying leading posts.

At the economic level, it aims at increasing women's participation in the labour force; working against discrimination at work, and ensuring the necessary facilities to encourage women to work.

The steps to be taken to implement these objectives are basically dependent upon constant supervision on employment procedures in governmental institutions and extending consultative services to women.

At the social level, the strategy aims at reinforcing women's status and their role in society and the family and extending help to special categories of women.

At the educational level, the strategy aims at ameliorating educational services in all areas and reinforcing a positive image of women in the educational curricula — portraying a positive role of women in the family and society.

One of the steps the strategy adopted to implement these objectives in the educational arena was the Ministry of Education's plan to reduce illiteracy.

Different views were aired concerning the mechanism of application. Some protested the lack of consideration paid to the information field.

The National Committee for Women, charged with rephrasing the document and introducing the proposal amendments to it, expects to publicly issue the final draft by the end of next week.

"Everyone who participated in preparing and approving the strategy should provide the suitable conditions for application so as not to transfer the strategy to written slogans," Princess Basma concluded.



University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday opens a two-day workshop on the conservation of nature in the Mediterranean zone

Mediterranean zone experts review conservation of area's nature

AMMAN (J.T.) Environmental issues are being given priority in Jordan since they are directly linked to scientific, economic and humanitarian endeavours, said University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday.

In opening a regional workshop on the conservation of nature in the Mediterranean zone, Dr. Gharaibeh called on various governments and non-governmental organisations with- in the Mediterranean region to increase their cooperation in protecting the environment.

Engineering Faculty Dean Isam Zabalawi outlined the faculty's development and its cooperation with universities in Belgium, Algeria and Italy in scientific research related to architecture and engineering. The workshop, he told the meeting, was called to help promote the exchange of expertise on ways to protect tourist and archaeological sites, as well as mineral and water resources in the Kingdom.

Attending the two-day workshop, organised in cooperation with the Mediterranean Sea University of Brussels and the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Jordan, are 15 city planning and organisation specialists from Italy, Spain, France and Algeria, in addition to Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliamentary team to head for Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat will leave for Khartoum Saturday. The delegation will include deputies Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Mohammad Al Alawneh, Mohammad Al Azaideh, Senator Khaled Al Tarawneh in addition to Khalaf Al Humeisat from the Parliament's General Secretariat.

Car exhaust fumes to be checked

AMMAN (Petra) — The Traffic Department will start a campaign aimed at examining car exhaust fumes which pollute the environment, department sources said Tuesday.

Services societies to go up in Karak area

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sogor Tuesday approved the establishment of two societies in Al Ma'mouniyya and Umm Hamat areas in Karak governorate. The two societies will offer services to children and women via clubs, kindergartens, nurseries, public parks, libraries and vocational training centres.

Cyprus to sign tourism agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Secretary General of the Cypriot Ministry of Tourism will arrive in Amman today (Wednesday) on a several-day visit to Jordan. The Cypriot official, who will be accompanied by a related delegation, will sign an agreement on tourism cooperation between Jordan and Cyprus.

Australian industry official to visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The Minister of Basic Industries in the province of Western Australia will arrive in Jordan July 8 on a several-day visit during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on ways of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and the province.

Media's 'distorted' image of women must be changed, say activists

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sneakers at a conference Monday criticised what they saw as the distorted image of women in the Jordanian media and demanded that the private and public sectors take quick action to change it.

Women's activist and journalist Hayat Huweik Atiyyeh, urged all concerned parties, public and private, to take strict measures against what she saw as the "catastrophic and shocking" image of women in television advertisements.

According to Ms. Atiyyeh, the

Jordan Television Corporation (JTV) reflects women either as sex objects or as traditional veiled women.

"Both are symbols of the concentration on the women's body that has either to be covered or displayed," she said.

"Where is the intellectual woman... she is completely absent," she added. "This is a result of the Western invasion on our culture and its policy of imposing backwardness on our societies."

Almad Theiban, a journalist at the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab, spoke of women's abuse in the press regarding women's status in the city and particularly the lack

of attention paid to rural women.

"While women in the city are struggling to obtain an honourable status in the political field, women in the rural areas are still fighting against poverty, social norms and traditions that are rarely reflected in the media."

Mr. Theiban also criticised what he saw as the constant degradation of women's personality and individuality by continually linking women's achievements to men's achievements.

"The woman is portrayed as the wife, daughter and sister of an important husband, father or brother," he said.

Toujan Faisal, a women's activist, strongly attacked the female stereotype reflected in television programme. She said the woman is either reflected as a bad and evil creature, an exaggeratingly sacrificing mother or as a weak individual who needs the help of others.

"This stereotype picture drawn in television series and programmes has now become an obligatory role that women have to play," Ms. Faisal said. "At present, the sacrificing image of the mother is demanded and to large degrees she can expect nothing in return."

Distance learning programme to expand

AMMAN (J.T.) — The success of the distance learning programme of Quds Open University (QOU) has prompted the university to open new branches in Arab countries, announced QOU President Munther Salah Tuesday.

Addressing the second day of a seminar to discuss the university's activities and expansion, Dr. Salah said that after opening branches in the Arab region QOU plans to open other branches in Britain and the United States to benefit the Arab communities there.

Although its services are currently offered to 4,000 mainly Palestinian students, QOU is a university for all Arabs, said Dr. Salah.

Addressing the first of five successive sessions held Tuesday at the QOU premises in Amman, Dr. Salah reviewed the various stages of the university's development and highlighted that highly qualified and experienced teachers provide Palestinian and other Arab students with proper education.

QOU was established to provide higher education to Palestinian students under Israeli occupation.

Tuesday's second session dealt with QOU academic programmes and their application in the Israeli-held Arab lands.

The third session focused on a working paper on the production of educational materials for students, the fourth session discussed procedures adopted in evaluating students' performance, and the fifth covered matters related to those supervising the distance learning process.

Education Minister Khaled Al Omari, who opened the three-day seminar Monday praised QOU as a manifestation of the Palestinian people's determination to acquire education while undertaking the struggle for liberation.

The seminar was organised by QOU in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

12th Jerash Festival to add new local theatre to bill

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Arabic music, dance and poetry top the bill at this year's Jerash Festival, with the added attraction of one of Jordan's own political satire theatre groups.

The festival of culture and arts, due to open July 14, will be held at two sites: in the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

Poets, singers and other performers from Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Algeria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Palestine will perform side by side with the Jordanian artists.

said festival Director Akram Masarweh.

In addressing a press conference Tuesday, Mr. Masarweh predicted that this 12th festival will be unique and impressive as new local elements have been added, including the Nabil and Hisham Theatre Troupe who will present political satires for adults and other plays for children.

Other local performances will be presented by the Royal Cultural Centre's Ballet Troupe and a host of folk dancers and singers.

The first day of the festival will be dedicated to Jordanian traditions, said Mr. Masarweh.

This is the second year in which local organisations are helping to finance part of the festival in a bid to assist the Jerash Festival Committee to overcome current financial difficulties, Mr. Masarweh added.

The director explained that the activities are being held in sites because the Amman-Jerash highway is still under construction, making travel for some to Jerash somewhat difficult.

The festival will continue from July 14 to 30.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeila Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings in watercolour, oil and acrylics by Mrs. Heidi Eysers at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of art works by Samia Zaru at the Marriott Hotel.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Animal Farm" at 7 p.m. at the British Council.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The things at stake

THE TENTH round of peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties is nearing its end with not much to show for it. This is not surprising since the Israeli position has stayed where it has been over the last nine rounds of peace talks. Washington promised to play an effective role throughout the bilateral peace process that it had originally brokered, but has yet to deliver on that pledge in a concrete way. As a matter of fact, both Israel and the various Arab delegations have anticipated a greater role for the U.S. because both sides know only too well that the gap between them cannot be bridged without a meaningful participation by the Clinton administration in the talks. There is no sign yet that this will indeed be the case during what the world thought would be an eventful tenth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. Should the ongoing efforts also fail to register real progress in the peace process, then all the prophecies about gloom and doom sweeping through the Middle East region may not be far from really happening.

The risk that extremism on both sides of the fence may exploit the failure of the peace process to advance can no longer be dismissed as sheer fantasy. All over this region of the world there are increasing signs that the cause of the extremist forces is steadily gaining on several fronts and is constantly consolidating its gains in other areas where it has already cemented footholds.

While peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours may be postponed for some years, it is extremely doubtful that the tide in favour of extremism can be checked during this waiting period. Israel must be the first to be weary about the rise and spread of extremism. Washington must also direct its attention to this phenomenon that is spreading in the Middle East and other developing countries. The stakes for all countries especially the moderate ones among them, are simply too high to continue to be taken lightly. This is therefore the time for the Clinton administration to step in right now and before the termination of the current peace round or risk losing all possibilities for peace in the Middle East and in turn a rebound for moderation in the area.

We in Jordan have a special concern about the turn of events in Washington since we are at the threshold of another parliamentary election in few months. The stakes for democracy and pluralism in the country are obviously too formidable. There is no way that the people of the country can continue to nurture moderation as long as the results of the past efforts in the peace process do not vindicate such a posture. It must dawn on all parties that greater and more forceful attempts are needed to save the bilateral talks from imminent disaster.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EXCEPT for Washington's closest allies, most nations have condemned the recent U.S. missile attack on residential sites in Baghdad, said Al Ra'i daily. Most reactions to the raid condemned the double-standard attitude of the so-called new world order, the paper noted. Criticism of Washington's actions did not only concentrate on the unjustified raid but also on Washington's failure to help achieve peace between the Arabs and the Israelis. It had promised, continued the paper. The daily said that the latest U.S. attack coincided with the conclusion of the World Conference on Human Rights and the announcement of the Vienna Declaration which called for the establishment of a world order that would enhance the cause of justice and peace. The paper pointed out that the attack came in flagrant violation of this declaration and contrary to the aspirations of the peace-loving nations. The American missile attack on the innocent civilians in Baghdad, said the paper, was a clear indication that the U.S. administration is not interested in the declaration of the Vienna document which calls for equality, justice, democracy, solidarity, and the rule of the law.

THE MISSILE attack on Baghdad was launched not only against the Iraqi capital and its people, it was rather directed against the Arab nation's dignity, said a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Fahd Al Fanek said that the barbarians of the 20th century have exposed themselves more and more to the world, but most importantly have exposed the true nature of the Arab regimes which have totally succumbed to the will and the desires of the American cowboy and, by so doing, lost whatever remained of their legitimacy. What can Arab regimes say now in the face of the barbaric attack on the civilian population of Baghdad? asked the writer. This time the Americans did not seek permission from the Arab League to launch its attack on Baghdad as it did before simply because there is no need for such a permission, said the writer. He said that the attack was meant as an offence to every Arab citizen and was justified by the United States as a means of self-defence, added the writer. What glory does a nation seek, being a superpower, by murdering innocent civilians and how does Washington appraise itself now, he asked. The writer asked the writer. The United States has a long, bloody history because it has been launching aggression on one country after another, added the writer. He said the aggression on Baghdad can only draw hatred and enmity not only against Washington, but more specifically against Washington's Arabic speaking allies in the region.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdallah Malki

Foreign investment

Deeds speak louder than words

In the early seventies, Jordan launched an ambitious scheme to attract foreign investments, including Arab ones. For this purpose, it enacted, in 1972, a modern legislation, The Encouragement of Investment Law, which is about to be amended as a sign of the renewed Jordanian interest in attracting these investments.

Considerable emphasis was put in that law on financial incentives. Tax exemptions were meant to be a central attraction. Starting with the sixties, developing countries rushed to take measures to attract foreign investment and, almost unanimously, adopted tax exemptions. One would reasonably argue that this unanimity tended to neutralise the positive effects of this weapon. That is true in the sense that tax exemptions no more give any country a competition edge. But then withholding such incentives would constitute a competition disadvantage. Developing countries foolishly established a policy which was irreversible and served only the interests of foreign investors.

Notwithstanding financial and other generous incentives, foreign capital invested in Jordan in the period 1975-90 constituted a meagre 7 per cent of aggregate investment. And this very modest portion still overstates the importance of foreign capital invested in Jordan. The term "investment" refers to capital invested each year in the economy. Thus, capital stock in a given country at any given time is the sum of all past annual investments, discounted by the rate of capital depreciation. On this count, foreign capital invested in Jordan is much less than 7 per cent of capital stock.

probably 2 to 3 per cent of it. This very low level after decades of encouraging foreign investment hardly warrants the effort and is a powerful evidence that the foreign investment policy of Jordan has been a failure. There is no economic rationale for carrying on with this or other similar policies.

Actually, the nature of the net final effect of foreign investment on the economies of host countries, whether it is positive or negative, has not yet been well-established in the theory of development economics. When I suggested to my supervisor to write my Ph.D. thesis on the advantages of foreign investment he insisted that the theme must be whether such investment was advantageous or otherwise.

However, the above argumentation in no way suggests that the economic policy of Jordan should not care for foreign investment. The crucial point is that Jordan and, for that matter, any other developing countries, should provide the conditions necessary to promote their own national investment. If that is done, the same conditions will be good enough for promoting foreign investment as well, and they do not have to offer special incentives for foreign investment, particularly the costly tax exemptions.

Advanced countries do not offer any special incentives for foreign investment. Nevertheless, they attract huge foreign investment on a permanent basis. Indeed, if developing countries fail to treat indigenous investment in a fair and good way, no foreign investor will believe or expect them to treat him that way, irrespective of the legislative rhetoric.



Coca Cola, Arab indignity and the violence of 1993

By Rami Khouri

The American missile attack on Baghdad Saturday night will be seen by most people as a continuation of the Gulf war and a confirmation of the novel yet barbaric nature of modern Anglo-Saxon technological warfare: the battlefield action stopped over two years ago, but the killing and the mass human suffering go on unabated, whether due to sanctions or to punitive military strikes.

The broader political imperative from the American perspective also continues and becomes more clear: to maintain the Middle East in a political/commercial configuration that serves western economic interests first and foremost, a status quo that is uncomfortable for the majority of Arabs in this region, but safe from the threats of indigenous Middle Eastern powers or even from the aspirations of the people of the region.

It seems that at the end of the 20th century Washington may play the role of military enforcer and exploitative economic hegemon in the Middle East that Great Britain played in the region at the end of the 19th century. The actors and the commodities change, but the script remains depressingly familiar. The British wanted to sell us tea, the Americans sell us Coca Cola. The British wanted to maintain communications routes to their Asian empire, the Americans want to maintain privileged access to Arab oil, commercial markets and financial surpluses. The British and their European co-predators had to contain Mohammed Ali in the 19th century to protect their imperial interests, the Americans and their European sidekicks have to contain Gamal Abdul Nasser, Ayatollah Khomeini and Saddam Hussein to protect their neo-imperial interests in the 20th century.

The specific American rationale for this latest action — the alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate George Bush — should be seen within the broader regional picture of interaction between the Arab/Israeli people of the Middle East and the United States. The assassination story may or may not be true. The fact is, Washington attacked Iraqi targets several other times in the last year, and it maintains a tight embargo that has brought suffering to millions of ordinary Iraqis. The assassination allegation is a passing incident, while the reality of the use of overwhelming American military power against virtually helpless targets in the Middle East is a new pattern that appears capable of becoming a routine habit.

The broader picture of short-term U.S.-Middle Eastern dynamics is gloomy, given the continued attacks against Iraq, the use of American troops in Somalia, the aggressive diplomatic campaign against Iran, Libya and Sudan, and the new phenomenon of apparently Arab/Israeli-sponsored terrorism against targets in the United States. The separate incidents of violence and counter-violence that characterise U.S.-Middle Eastern dynamics now threaten to become a permanent cycle of savagery fuelled by an escalating legacy of injustice, anger, desperation, contempt and double standards.

Neither side will benefit from such a trend, and both peoples will suffer rising levels of fear, death and destruction. Neither brand of violence can be justified, supported or accepted. The technological militarism of Washington and the indiscriminate terror tactics of anti-American Arabs or Muslims stem from deeper fears that cannot be addressed by further violence. The

American military actions, the alleged Bush assassination plot and the terror campaign in the United States are important signs that something grievously wrong is now driving people on both sides to resort to desperate and inhuman acts.

To ignore the underlying concerns and injustices that generate these acts would only guarantee that more such acts will take place — that we would not only revert to late 19th century imperial legacies, but to a much more savage 11th century Crusader mentality that could play itself out on a scale of unimaginable horror both in the United States and the Middle East. It is probably inevitable that Arab/Israeli desperation has now brought terrorism to the United States itself, given the modern history of American diplomacy in the region. Much as we might disagree with such tactics, we should not be so naive as to only condemn them without probing for their deeper causes, so that we may try to address and resolve them.

The diplomatic double standards and neo-colonial commercial diplomacy of the United States and its European pals remain fundamental to the rage that now fuels the sentiments of many people in this region. For years and decades, many of us in this area have repeatedly warned of the consequences of allowing the political/economic configuration of the Middle East to remain in its current dilapidated, distorted and exhausted form. The abuse that Arabs/Muslims have endured for most of this century at the hands of western powers, Zionism, and many of their own autocratic power structures has spawned an indignity that is being translated into indiscriminately violent and fanatical action. It is ugly, it is regrettable, it should be condemned, and it will probably not achieve its aims — but it is neither surprising nor unusual.

Groups of discontented Arabs and Muslims are speaking in the unfortunate language of violence; the masses of their countrymen and women may not condone their means, but they understand the message they are trying to send. They understand because they share the same feelings of personal humiliation, cultural degradation, economic despair and national indignity that have accumulated for most of this century and that have reached intolerable levels in the people who make bombs for use in the United States.

The bombs against the United States and the missiles against Baghdad, however, are signs of weakness, not strength — human, political, and military weakness all rolled into one. The prevalent Middle Eastern problems, injustices and distortions that have brought us to this sad point will not be resolved by bombs — they will only be aggravated. That's what we and most of the rest of the Arab/Israeli people tried to tell the United States, its European pals, and their few terrified Arab wards when the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990. Guns will not stabilise this region; they will lead it towards greater explosions.

The Middle East today is in far worse shape than it was in August 1990, and American military involvement is more widespread, continuous and futile. Bill Clinton, like George Bush, will use military force against weak Middle Easterners to shore up his political standing at home and pump up his macho quotient. This is inherent in the violence of American culture, the superficiality of American politics, the shortsightedness of American diplomacy and the inevitability of American foreign policy

Static revenue estimates are a major cause of the budget deficit

By Paul Craig Roberts

SENATE Democrats have done President Bill Clinton and the economy a great service by axing his British Thermal Units (BTU) tax on energy, but if they want to save his presidency — and the recovery — they will have to go further and kill the entire tax bill.

The adverse impact of the energy tax on the poor was clear enough to Mr. Clinton's advisers, who set aside 40 per cent of the projected revenues to beef up welfare spending to compensate poor Americans for what they would pay. The Senate, concerned with the harm to employment in energy-intensive industries, such as airlines, aluminium, fertilisers, and steel, took this reasoning a step further. Adding up the lost payroll and income taxes, it was clear that the tax was a revenue loser. It made no sense to take on so many special interests for a tax that would cost the government more money than it would bring in.

Since the energy tax's projected revenues of \$70 billion were a figment of the estimators' imaginations, newspaper reports that Senate Democrats are struggling to cobble together other taxes to plug the revenue hole are nonsensical. As the tax would have produced no net revenues, there is no hole to plug.

The sorry episode of the life and death of this tax is a prime example of the political damage and public confusion wrought by static revenue estimates. Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) and the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis (OTA) base revenue estimates on the assumption that taxes do not affect behaviour, sales, employment, profits, or investment. Consequently, estimators always overestimate the revenue gains from a tax hike and the losses from a tax cut.

Shrinking ships

Indeed, static revenue estimates are a major cause of the budget deficit. The JCT and OTA keep loading the government up with revenue-losing tax hikes. Examples abound. Remember the luxury tax on yachts, furs, jewellery, and private airplanes? Well, the facts are in: Internal Revenue Service filings show that the resulting job losses alone have cost the government \$2.40 for every \$1 of revenue. The airplane tax is the most amazing of all. In fiscal 1991, it brought in a mere \$53,000 in revenues but cost \$5.1 million in unemployment outlays.

Another example is the repeal in the 1986 Tax Reform Act of the tax deferral for earnings reinvested in the shipping industry (Sub-Part F). Estimators expected an additional \$40 million a year, but studies by the General

Accounting Office and Evans Economics reveal this to be a fantasy. The tax devastated the U.S. shipping industry. The U.S. fleet tonnage shrank by 28 per cent during 1986-91, while world tonnage rose 25 per cent. The vanished 8,000 jobs have cost the Treasury \$60 million a year in lost payroll and income taxes. When multiplier effects and lost state and local revenues are included, the annual cost of the tax rises to \$160 million, or \$4 lost for every \$1 of projected revenue.

Slow write-down

On occasion, tax estimators do more than ruin companies, industries, and the livelihoods of thousands of workers: They bring the country to the brink of ruin. The real estate provisions in the 1986 tax reform legislation cost the U.S. at least four times as much as the \$60 billion tab for Desert Storms. The asset lives of commercial real estate properties were lengthened from 19 years to 31 years, which collapsed the present values of the properties. Passive investors were denied normal tax deductions, causing them to walk away from their investments. The 40 per cent increase in the capital-gains tax guaranteed no one would hold on for the long haul.

Ignoring the obvious economic and financial effects of these provisions, the estimators expected to raise approximately \$33 billion in new revenues. Instead, real estate values collapsed, pulling down banks, thrifts, and federally insured savings and loan deposits.

Static revenue estimates have proven to be the worst kind of fraud, and it is amazing that no lawsuits have been filed. The JCT and the OTA claim it is too difficult to make the dynamic estimates that take into account the effects of taxes on behaviour. No doubt this analysis would be difficult and imprecise, but an imprecisely right analysis is better than a precisely wrong one, as in the cases of yachts, shipping, and real estate.

Certainly, we do not need any more tax hikes that swell the deficit. Yet Mr. Clinton's plan is based on the same invalid methodology for producing revenue estimates that predicted Mr. Bush's 1990 tax increase would balance the budget. Mr. Clinton should note that, after Mr. Bush's budget deal was enacted, the Congressional Budget Office raised its five-year deficit projections six times by an average of \$220 billion. Unless Mr. Clinton wants a bigger deficit, higher unemployment, rising inflation and a currency crisis to boot, he should hope that special interests deep-six his entire tax bill — Business Week.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ilescu meets Arab envoys

BUCHAREST (Petra) — Romanian President Ion Ilescu conferred here with Arab ambassadors accredited to Romania and attended a dinner banquet in his honour hosted by the Arab diplomatic mission doyen, the Lebanese ambassador to Romania. Discussion with the Romanian president covered ways to promote Arab-Romanian economic and trade links, regional and international affairs of common concern and the ongoing Middle East peace process. Romania's foreign minister Teodor Melescanu attended the meeting along with a number of senior Romanian government officials.

Black Sea Fleet officers reject split

MOSCOW (AFP) — Officers of the Black Sea Fleet Tuesday rejected an agreement by presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk to divide up the powerful armada and said the entire fleet should be temporarily placed under Russia's jurisdiction. Interfax reported. Officers decided at an assembly at the fleet's home base of Sevastopol to hoist the Russian naval flag on all vessels, including warships, as of July 1 to protest the decision. In a statement, the seamen demanded that "commanders of the Black Sea Fleet make no attempt to order officers into splitting up the fleet. Officers will not take part in it," the statement said. Russia and Ukraine earlier this month agreed to speed up the dividing up of the fleet after about 200 vessels hoisted the Russian naval flag in protest over poor working conditions. Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk last year agreed to share the fleet until 1995. Officers maintained that "joint use of the fleet must be dictated by the common interests of Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the CIS."

Yeltsin's assembly convenes July 12

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin's Constituent Assembly will convene on July 12 in a bid to reach a consensus on a new fundamental law for Russia. Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko said Tuesday. The scheduled session, which Mr. Yeltsin Saturday said would be the "final" meeting of the 700-member assembly, will be called to discuss a proposed single draft charter that has emerged from working groups over the past four weeks. Mr. Shumeiko was reported as saying by ITAR-TASS. The draft constitution would do away with the old-guard parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, replacing it with a smaller bicameral legislature, while boosting Mr. Yeltsin's presidential powers. Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, Mr. Yeltsin's chief political rival, has boycotted the assembly, charging at first that it was not legally authorised to decide on the new constitution and later raising corruption allegations against presidential aides involved in the drafting of the basic law.

Rebels claim capture of Angolan town

SAO TOME (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Tuesday it had recaptured the north-eastern diamond mining town of Chingulo after a seven-day battle. UNITA radio, monitored in the island state Sao Tome and Principe, said 26 government troops and five Zairean mercenaries fighting with them were killed. The mines, operated by a Portuguese company, had been defended by two government battalions and around 100 mercenaries, the radio said. The Angolan government had been trying to recapture diamond mines taken by UNITA since the movement took up arms again after rejecting its defeat in U.N.-supervised elections last September. Angola produced about \$600 million worth of alluvial diamonds last year, most of which were sold illegally across the border in neighbouring Zaire. UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) signed a peace agreement in 1991 ending 16 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony.

U.S.-N. Korea talks to resume July 14

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and North Korean officials will meet in Geneva on July 14 to resume discussion of North Korea's nuclear programmes, the State Department announced. In their most recent talks in New York, which ended on June 11, North Korea agreed to suspend its decision to withdraw from a treaty barring the development of nuclear weapons. But the question of international inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities was left unresolved. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci headed the U.S. delegation to the New York talks and will have the same role in Geneva. As before, Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Chu will lead the North Korean side. In March, the North Koreans said they planned to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In New York they reversed the decision just before the date when the withdrawal was to have taken effect.

Japan to boost anti-missile system

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan is to strengthen its defence capabilities in response to the threat from a new North Korean long-range missile, but will still have to rely on U.S. protection for some time, government sources said. "Japan is currently unable to defend itself against high-altitude missile attacks," Shigeru Hatakeyama, chief of the Defence Agency's Defence Bureau admitted recently before a commission of the upper house of the Japanese Diet. This admission of Japan's weakness came after the successful testing of North Korea's new Nodong-1 missile, whose 1,000-kilometre range would enable it to reach western Japan, including Osaka. "The Nodong-1, a development of the Soviet-designed Scud-C, was launched May 29 from a base near Wonsan in southeast North Korea scoring a direct hit on a floating target in Sea of Japan," Japanese government sources said.

Malaysia to acquire MiGs and F-18s

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia said Tuesday it would buy 18 Russian MiG-29 fighters and eight U.S. F/A 18 Hornets to bolster its air force, while insisting it would not alter the military balance in the region. The U.S. embassy here welcomed the decision to purchase the Hornets but analysts said the surprise compromise would give Moscow a significant foothold in South East Asia's lucrative arms market. Defence Minister Najib Tun Razak told a news conference that detailed negotiations with the Mikoyan Design Bureau and McDonnell Douglas, respective manufacturers of the two aircraft, would begin soon. He said the value of the purchase was still subject to negotiations, but defence sources said it could cost at least two billion Malaysian dollars (\$800 million).

Spain's Socialists still seek allies

MADRID (AP) — Spanish lawmakers took their seats in parliament Tuesday, the first time in more than a decade a new legislature opened with the Socialists unable to run the show alone. The Socialists, who have controlled parliament single-handedly since coming to power in 1982, were able to win only 159 of 350 seats in the key lower house of parliament in the June 4 general elections. With Spain facing a plethora of economic woes, the opening of parliament was a brief respite in acting Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's ongoing attempts to find legislative allies for his Socialist Party. King Juan Carlos was expected to begin consultations Wednesday with the leaders of several parties with an eye towards asking one of them — almost certainly Mr. Gonzalez — to form a government. Mr. Gonzalez is expected to announce his ministerial choices by mid-July.

Scandal rocks Chinese army

PEKING (AFP) — In a rare disclosure, an official report Tuesday said Chinese authorities had uncovered a massive corruption scandal within the army, with nearly 300 officials already implicated. The scandal involving more than 43 army units at regiment level and above, concerns the illegal sale of falsified papers identifying workers as demobilised soldiers, the Press Digest reported. Demobilised soldiers are given priority in employment and housing, and their status is much sought after. The racket took place in Jinxi, in China's northwestern Liaoning province, and first came to light in April, the official newspaper said. More than three million yuan (\$520,000) in bribes changed hands, according to initial investigations.

Fighting rages as Bosnia presidency discusses partition

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslim troops said they were desperately fighting combined Serb-Croat forces in central Bosnia Tuesday as state leaders arrived in Sarajevo to discuss a plan to carve up the republic. A weeping Muslim officer, declaring "we lost it," said his forces suffered heavy casualties when Serb tanks overran the village of Novi Seher 10 kilometres north of Zepce, triggering a flood of Muslim refugees. But Sarajevo Radio said Muslim-led government troops smashed through Croat lines surrounding Zepce, 70 kilometres northwest of the capital, and lifted a blockade against other Muslim forces trapped in the area during days of fighting.

Seven members of the collective presidency arrived in the Serb-besieged capital and conferred at the presidency building on a three-way partition plan rebel Serbs and Croats discussed with peace mediators in Geneva Monday.

Yugoslav peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived in Zagreb Tuesday for a meeting with Bosnia's collective presidency on a partition peace plan. They flew in as the entire leadership, including Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and his deputy Ejup Ganic, met in Sarajevo to discuss Serb-Croatian proposals to divide Bosnia into three ethnic semi-autonomous regions. Lord Owen said earlier he thought the Bosnian presidency could reach a common decision within days on the new confederation plan. "I would be surprised if they came to a decision today in Sarajevo because they have already organised another meeting in five days' time. I think that is more likely to be the decision making time," he told reporters in Brussels.

He was there for a meeting with Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister Willy Claes. Belgium takes over the presidency of the European Community on July 1 for six months. U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) sources said the two mediators had both left Zagreb Airport for force headquarters, where Mr. Stoltenberg planned to meet fellow Swede and outgoing U.N. Commander-in-Chief General Lars-Eric Wahlgren for a briefing on the war zones.

New scandal hurts Japan's LDP

TOKYO (R) — Japan's scandal-racked ruling party, facing the real prospect of defeat in July 18 polls, suffered yet another setback Tuesday with the arrest of a conservative regional leader for suspected bribery. The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), its popularity almost halved due to widespread public anger over official corruption, stands to lose heavily as a result of the latest scandal development. State prosecutors were shown on television arresting Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii — known for his close ties to LDP leaders — following reports he allegedly took bribes from four construction firms seeking to win public works projects.

After raiding Sendai City Hall and Tokyo corporate offices, authorities arrested nine suspects — Mr. Ishii, two of his aides, Hazama Corp Chairman Shigeru Honda and President Akira Kagami, and four senior executives from Shimizu Corp, Nishimatsu Construction and Mitsui Construction.

Mr. Ishii, 67, will be charged on suspicion of taking 100 million yen (\$945,000) in payoffs from the firms in April 1992 in exchange for promising to help them win the contracts, NHK public television and other media said.

Mr. Ishii, a conservative who won election late last year with backing from the LDP and opposition groups, could have been seeking funds for his election bid, some reports said. The public works project, worth 100 billion yen (\$945 million) over 10 years, involved redeveloping Sendai's harbour, and building trade and distribution centres.

The latest episode in Japan's political corruption saga puts the spotlight once again on ties between influential politicians and big business.

The LDP's fallen paymaster, Shin Kanamaru, is alleged to have hidden away billions of yen (tens of millions of dollars) in payoffs, mostly from construction firms, in return for political favours. His trial will begin on July 22.

Prosecutors, who refused comment on Tuesday's case in keeping with policy, discovered the Sendai link while checking construction firms for their alleged payoffs to Mr. Kanamaru over the past four months.

"Voters are fed up with corruption...this development will prompt them to switch their support from existing (ruling and opposition) groups to newly emerged parties," said political scientist Rei Shiratori of Tokai University.

Last week LDP rebels, disgusted by their party's failure to clean up the nation's money-driven politics, launched two centre-right parties — Shinseitō (Japan Renewal Party) and Shin to Sakigake (Harbinger New Party) — in hopes of winning the support of jaded voters next month.

Polls this week showed support for the LDP, now a minority party in the decision-making lower house, has plunged almost 20 points in two weeks to hover around 20 per cent.



Under sniper fire, British soldiers run from their Warrior armoured vehicle Monday minutes after hitting an anti-tank mine near Zepce. The Warrior, carrying Lt. Col. Alastair Duncan, commander of the British UNPROFOR troops in central Bosnia, was investigating reports of heavy fighting in the area (AFP photo)

There was no immediate word whether they planned to fly to Sarajevo later Tuesday or await the return of some Bosnian presidency members to Zagreb later in the day.

Mr. Izetbegovic and Mr. Ganic both oppose the plan, terming it equal to genocide, while the remaining members appeared divided over whether to accept a confederation for a future Bosnia, or insist on a single Bosnian state.

The seven include three pro-government Serbs, three Croats and one Muslim, Fikret Abdic. Late Monday they said they still favoured a single Bosnian state but wanted to discuss some proposals by Lord Owen, including confederation.

Mr. Abdic is tipped as a possible successor if Mr. Izetbegovic is removed. Diplomats in Geneva said

Serbs and Croats had agreed that a ceasefire in the 15-month war should go into effect if the Muslims sign the plan to form three confederated states.

Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is offering the Muslims 30 per cent of territory, probably around Sarajevo and the northwestern enclave of Bihać but mediators insist Bosnia's majority Muslim people be given enough land to make a viable state.

Under the plan, the Serbs would control the eastern and southern parts of the country, the Croats the central and western parts, and the Muslims the north and south-east.

The plan would also give the Serbs control of the Bosnian coast, the Croats control of the Bosnian coast, and the Muslims control of the Bosnian coast.

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Haiti talks appear back on track — diplomats

NEW YORK (R) — Apparent willingness by Haiti's army strongman at least to consider stepping aside saved talks on restoring democracy from collapse, sources close to the negotiations reported.

But roadblocks remain in talks in which the two protagonists, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and General Raoul Cedras, the man who overthrew him in a September 1991 coup, have not even met face-to-face.

Earlier, foreign diplomats on hand at secluded Governors Island off Manhattan, said Gen. Cedras gave no hint that he would consider stepping down and insisted that he maintain control of the army.

The United States special envoy to the negotiations, Lawrence Pezzullo, then intervened in an attempt to persuade the military chief to show some flexibility.

After the meeting, diplomats said Gen. Cedras seemed willing at least to consider resigning. That indication apparently rescued the talks and prompted the key United Nations mediator, Dante Caputo, to say there was a basis for continuing the negotiations.

"I have just received some indications that allow me to say the negotiations are still going on," Mr. Caputo told reporters as he shuttled between the general's billet and that of Mr. Aristide.

But despite more than seven hours of talks Sunday and Monday between Mr. Caputo and Gen. Cedras, the general apparently was adamant about maintaining other army command officers in their posts, even if he himself agreed to resign.

"We would never accept a solution that excludes us," one of Gen. Cedras' associates said.

The agenda Gen. Cedras seems unwilling to discuss includes a date for Mr. Aristide's return, the resignation of the army high command, the transfer of power to a democratic government, the deployment of an international police force and the appointment of a new prime minister.

An Aristide adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We are waiting to see if we have an agenda."

Shanghai dissidents said Monday that Mr. Yang and Mr. Wang were detained Sunday before the planned meeting with Ms. Moore, and that Mr. Bao fled when someone tried to grab him near his home.

Mr. Bao said Monday that he has not left his home since that incident, and that he has notified his employers that he would not go to work until he felt it was safe to go outside.

The Australian embassy said in a statement Monday, "It is regrettable that a journalist has been detained in the conduct of what was apparently normal activity."

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Cricket bat sends baseball bandit running

SYDNEY (R) — A baseball bat-wielding bandit was sent running when an Australian homeowner hit him with a cricket bat, police said Tuesday. Two bandits, one with a baseball bat and the other a pickaxe handle, broke into the house on Queensland's Sunshine coast only to be met by a man armed with a cricket bat. "One of the robbers was hit on the head with the bat and we're checking medical centres because he may have needed attention," a police spokesman said.

Whitney Houston not treated for overdose of pills

NEW YORK (AP) — A lawyer for Whitney Houston has denied a published report that the pop singer was treated at a hospital after overdosing on prescription diet pills. The hospital said there was no record of her there. "She has never taken a diet pill in her life," said the lawyer, Sheldon Platt. "She's outraged. She's hurt." The New York Post reported that Houston, 29, spent 90 minutes Thursday at Miami Beach's Mount Sinai Hospital, where she was diagnosed with acute heart arrhythmia, apparently brought on by incorrect dosage of diet pills. "She has never been to a hospital in Florida," countered Mr. Platt. "She is not sick. She was rehearsing on Thursday, in front of a lot of people." "It is a total fabrication," he said. "There is absolutely no basis in fact. The article is completely wrong — not inaccurate — completely out of whack. None of this has happened." The hospital also said its records show no such visit. "We've checked extensively, and we have no record of her being here," said Mount Sinai spokeswoman Gayle Farber. Asked if Ms. Houston could have checked in under another name, Ms. Farber said, "I'm sure somebody would have recognised her." Post editor Ken Chandler was in a staff meeting and could not be reached for comment this afternoon. However, his office said the Post planned to issue a statement.

'Corrupt officials must perform stomach sit-ups'

NEW DELHI (R) — The chief minister of the eastern Indian state of Bihar forced officials who misused government funds to perform sit-ups in public, the United News of India reported Tuesday. Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav found several such officials during a surprise inspection of development projects in the state capital Patna, the news agency said. It did not say how many officials were punished or how many sit-ups they were made to perform.

3 arrested in S. Korean beauty contest scandal

SEOUL (R) — Prosecutors investigating the mire of corruption in South Korean public life said Tuesday they had arrested the organiser of the annual Miss Korea Beauty Pageant on suspicion of taking bribes and fixing the results. Kim Chong-ik, former executive director of the Hankook Ilbo newspaper, which organises the annual beauty contest, was arrested Monday for allegedly taking bribes and rigging the results of the contest for the past four years. He was charged with taking 90 million won (\$12,000) in bribes, including 30 million won (\$37,000) from the mother of Suh Jong-Min, winner of the 1990 pageant. Ha Jong-Sun, a beauty parlour owner in Seoul who acted as a chaperone to Ms. Suh and who was alleged to have delivered the money to Mr. Kim, was arrested and Ms. Suh's mother was being questioned, a prosecution spokesman said. Park Ok-Hwi, a beauty parlour owner in the southern city of Kyongju, was arrested for forging the identification card of a 17-year-old high school girl who was too young to compete in this year's contest. Participants in the event should be aged between 18 and 23. The Hankook Ilbo Tuesday carried an apology over the scandal and pledged a thorough review of the annual contest.

Magistrate sacked 'for bad handwriting'

HARARE (R) — A Zimbabwean magistrate guilty of poor penmanship has been fired from the bench in a decision which he charged went against the letter of the law. "I have to admit I have a bad handwriting but that is not a moral fault of mine," Roy Wilson was quoted as saying by the Zimbabwean News Agency, ZIANA. He said a letter sacking him cited three cases in which transcripts were delayed because of problems in deciphering his writing. Wilson said he would take his case to the High Court, ZIANA reported.

After air crash, Zambia mounts new World Cup challenge

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Two months after 18 of its top soccer players died in a plane crash, Zambia resumes its bid Sunday for a berth in next year's World Cup.

Morocco plays Zambia at Independence Stadium, where eight weeks ago a funeral was held for the players killed in the April 28 crash.

The 18 players, along with 11 others, died when their Zambian Air Force cargo plane crashed off the coast of Gabon en route to a World Cup qualifying match in Senegal.

Players on the flight had been jubilant after a 3-0 victory over Mauritius in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Earlier wins against Namibia and Madagascar in qualifying rounds brought Zambia closer than ever to reaching the World Cup. In order to advance, Zambia must finish first in a series of games against Morocco and Senegal.

"We are going to beat Morocco, and Senegal after that," said Winston Gumbo, chairman of the Football Association of Zambia. "I am feeling very good about our prospects."

The new squad, featuring a few top players who were not on the doomed flight and amateurs drawn from Zambian clubs, has trained and played against top club teams in Denmark.

Kalusha Bwalya, who plays in Europe and was travelling separately in April, said the new squad must overcome the tragedy.

"If we lose or tie against Morocco, we will continue to be under pressure, both inside of us and outside," said Bwalya, a midfielder with the Dutch team PSV Eindhoven. "The earlier the victory, the better."

After a week of mourning for the crash victims in soccer-obsessed Zambia, local officials accepted a \$400,000 six-week training and accommodation package in Denmark for the new squad. Coach Freddie Mwila said building the team far from home helped remove pressure.

The Zambians were attached to Brondby, a member of the Danish super league and considered one of the country's best clubs.

The rebuilt Zambian team must lose its first match, 4-1, to Brondby, then gained a 3-3 draw in a rematch before scoring back-

to-back victories against super league teams Lyngby and Silkeborg.

"They have a heavy burden on their shoulders.... The best way to take their thoughts away from the tragedy was by training, training and training," said Emil Bakken, a Brondby official.

He said the players quickly adapted to different styles of play used in Europe. International experience came from Bwalya and fellow professional Linos Makwaza.

"They are now playing more thoughtfully, more tactically... they are doing great," Bakken said in an interview in Copenhagen. "They are definitely a World Cup team now."

After the Morocco match Sunday, Zambia takes on South Africa on July 11 and Zimbabwe on July 26 in the Africa Cup of Nations competition.

Gumbo said the squad may travel to France or Germany after that for further training before the next World Cup encounter in Senegal Aug. 7.

"Everyone has worked hard and made great sacrifices," he said. "We're back on course for the World Cup."

NBA draft Orlando Magic gears up for No. 1 choice

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Every year it's the same story: Big men get chosen first in the NBA draft.

This year, it'll be the same story. The only question is this: Will it be a big man or a giant one?

Barring a trade, the answer will be provided by the Orlando Magic Wednesday night at the Palace. Their top two choices are believed to be Chris Webber, a 6-foot-9 (2.1-metre) power forward from Michigan, and Shawn Bradley, a 7-6 (2.3-metre) centre from Brigham Young, a longshot could be Jamal Mashburn, a 6-8 (2-metre) forward from Kentucky.

Since 1966, only five guards have been selected with the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft. Magic Johnson was the last, in 1979, when he left Michigan State early.

This year, the draft is top-heavy with size, but some of the best players are guards.

Billy McKinney, the director of player personnel for the Detroit Pistons, has 15 players on his short list. Seven of them are guards.

"People are saying that this year's draft crop isn't as good as the bunch from last year," McKinney said. "But I think it's maybe unfair to compare this year with last year. There were so many players last year."

Picking behind Orlando are the Philadelphia 76ers and the Golden State Warriors. The Sixers have already declared their intention to choose Bradley if he's available. Otherwise they'll choose Webber.

Golden State would love to have Bradley, but they'll probably have to choose Anfernee Hardaway of Memphis State.

After that, a lot of teams will begin looking harder at the guards.

They include Hardaway, Duke's Bobby Hurley, UNLV's J.R. Rider, Seton Hall's Terry Dehere, Tennessee's Allan Houston, Jackson State's Lindsey Hunter and Alabama's James Robinson.

The best-known among the guards, of course, is Hurley. He led Duke to three NCAA final four appearances and two national titles.

"He's the best point guard of all the seniors," Washington Bullets' general manager John Nash said. "Hurley shows terrific leadership, determination and poise."

The Pistons like Hurley, too. They're just not sure he'll still be available when their turn comes at Nos. 10 and 11.

"He surpassed Dennis Rodman in some of the strength and conditioning workouts," McKinney said. "That's quite an accomplishment."

Probably the best guard in the draft is the flamboyant Hardaway, the biggest and flashiest point guard since Magic Johnson.

Agassi advances; Navratilova eyes 10th title

WIMBLEDON (Agencies) — Andre Agassi continued the defence of his Wimbledon title by putting down the muscular challenge of Giant Dutchman Richard Krajicek to reach the quarter-finals Monday.

The 23-year-old American title-holder had set points against him in the second and third set tie-breaks but produced some incredible shots in crucial situations to pull off a 7-5, 7-6, 7-6 victory. He won the two tie-breaks 9-7 and 10-8.

The eighth seed will meet world number one and top seed Pete Sampras, his compatriot who suffered a recurrence of the shoulder injury that almost kept him out of the championships but who still beat the last British challenger, Andrew Foster, 6-1, 6-2, 7-6.

An all-German quarter-final between the protagonists in the 1991 final, Boris Becker and Michael Stich, was set up earlier when Stich scored fourth-round victories.

Becker, seeded fourth, continued his grass-court mastery over flamboyant Frenchman Henri Leconte with a 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 victory while Stich, the sixth seed, eliminated 11th-seeded Czech Petr Korda 7-6, 6-4, 7-6.

Those two clashes are in the top half of the draw. At the other end, second and third seeds Stefan Edberg and Jim Courier got through and will face unseeded opposition in the last eight.

Edberg ousted American Richard Matsuzewski 7-6, 6-2, 6-2 and will play Frenchman Cedric Pioline, a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-7, 8-6 victor over Australian Wally Masur.

Courier proved once again that playing grass-court tennis from the baseline can work as he beat South African serve-and-volleyer Wayne Ferreira 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-4. His next opponent will be Todd Martin, winner of an all-American battle against David Wheaton, 6-4, 5-7, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

The day's only upset came in the women's singles where Helena Sukova of the Czech republic, seeded 15th, surprised Spanish third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-3, 6-4.

Agassi, who nearly missed the championships because of tendonitis in his wrist that sidelined him for two months, probably surprised even himself with his play against Krajicek.

"I felt I played all right at the important times but it was a question of having a little luck on my side in two sets," he said, doing himself considerable injustice.

Just when Krajicek seemed likely to level the match in the second set tie-break, Agassi somehow produced a winning forehand pass off an impossibly spinning volley that he seemed unlikely even to reach to get back to 5-5. Then he won the set with a top-spin forehand drive under the advancing Dutchman's racket.

Agassi again saved set point in the third set tie-break at 7-6 with David, the head stylist. "As for shaving, his chest, all I can say is rather him than me."

The average age of the eight women in Tuesday's quarter-finals is just under 24. Martina Navratilova is the oldest at 36 and Jennifer Capriati the youngest at 17. Two of the eight share an April 16 birthday — Natalia Zvereva was born that day in 1971, one year before Conchita Martinez.

The postcard stall at the All England Club displays an array of tasteful period pictures, depicting tennis in days gone by. It is not the Victorian ladies' singles that are selling best, however, but myriad shots of Andre Agassi. "Boring isn't it," the stallholder remarked.

The grounds also boast a chemist shop which is having trouble

key match for me to get through. "Pete's serve isn't as big so I know I'll have more of a play at it. However, he moves extremely well. With the way I'm hitting the ball, I'm going out there to win and I feel confident about my chances," he said.

Sampras breezed through two sets against Foster, who is ranked 332nd in the world, but his shoulder suffered in the process.

The injury that left his participation in doubt before the tournament flared up again and he required anti-inflammatory spray treatment by ATP physiotherapist Bill Norris at the change of ends during the final set.

"I went out there a little cold because I was watching the Wheaton match. I felt a little twinge but I've had treatment and it doesn't feel too bad."

"By Wednesday I should be in good shape."

Becker's triumph over Leconte earned him a chance of revenge against Stich, who beat him in the 1991 final and in the quarter-finals of the Queen's Club event in London earlier this month.

Sukova, who missed two months of tennis when she broke a bone in a foot running earlier this year, beat Sanchez-Vicario with the sort of form that earned her quarter-final spots each year from 1985 to 1988.

"I knew the surface would favour me because I like it and it's not her favourite," the tall Czech said.

Sanchez, who has won four tournaments this year, was not even upset at losing to her doubles partner.

She said she had stomach trouble before and during the match, leaving the court at one point to be physically sick.

The top two seeds, Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova, continued towards their widely predicted meeting in the final. Graf, winner of the title four times, had her toughest battle yet in a 6-1, 6-4 victory over American Meredith McGrath but has still lost only eight games in four matches.

Nine-times champion Navratilova beat Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-1, 6-3 and has dropped 12 games.

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

Monica Seles, sidelined from tennis after being stabbed by a disturbed German spectator in April, could be well enough to play at the U.S. Open in September. Seles's agent slammed press



A delighted Andre Agassi salutes his army of fans after defeating Richard Krajicek (AFP photo)

keeping up with demand for sun-tan lotion after seven sunny days. "Well you expect it to rain at Wimbledon, don't you?" the assistant said, adding headache pills were also selling fast.

The 40 first aid volunteers attending the championships were treating one person every three minutes for the effects of heat. A spokeswoman said some spectators get so engrossed in the tennis they forget to eat or drink.

This year there was also a greater number of cases of "Wimbledon neck" — because there was more uninterrupted tennis to watch.

There's a nasty bug in the women's draw. Third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario had to leave the court after half and hour of her match against Helena Sukova to be sick. Anke Huber, seeded nine, complained of a cough and a fever after her match with Gabriela Sabatini and said she felt only 60 per cent fit. Both women lost.

Stefan Edberg, pre-tournament favourite for the men's title, insists that another triumph this year would feel as good as his previous successes in 1988 to 1990. "Every time is sweet. Every championship has its own special appeal."

New racket has rotating handle

An Ohio mathematician has

invented a tennis racket with a rotating handle that he claims can transform hapless hackers into sure-fire smashers at the flick of a screw.

The "index handle" racket has a six-sided grip instead of the traditional eight. It also lets players adjust the angle of the racket face to conform to their anatomy.

Inventor Andy Brown, an actuarial consultant in Cincinnati and a recreational tennis player, blames a tilted racket face for many of the frustrations of beginning players.

"One guy grabs a racket and has the face straight up and down," Brown said Monday.

"Another guy grabs it and has the face facing up 40 degrees. The guy with the handle facing up 40 degrees isn't going to get the ball in the court."

His racket allows a player to adjust the angle over 60 degrees at any of 10 settings simply by loosening a screw in the bottom of the handle. Any player, Brown says, will thus swing with a level racket head, Brown says.

Joseph Hamill, a University of Massachusetts researcher, says the six-sided handle fits the hand better and puts the wrist in a stronger position. He says it also seems to reduce vibration that contributes to tennis elbow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gretzky stays in LA

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Canadian ice-hockey wizard Wayne Gretzky is on the verge of renewing his contract with the Los Angeles Kings for a reputed 20 million dollars over two years. Gretzky, encouraged by the King's success in reaching the 1993 Stanley Cup final, believes he has still got a couple of years at the top, "and 20 million really isn't so bad," he concedes.

Holyfield going nowhere

ATLANTIC CITY (AFP) — Riddick Bowe's manager Rock Newman was not impressed by Evander Holyfield's comeback fight last weekend. Despite dominating British-born American Alex Stewart, the workman-like Holyfield was unable to finish off a stubborn opponent. "I think he should retire," said Newman.

Platt chased by Lecce

ROME (AFP) — The future of England football captain David Platt is still undecided. The 27-year-old midfielder star failed to fit in at Juventus last season, but is now being chased by Lecce, who are looking for a big name to celebrate the club's return to Serie A football next season. Juventus meanwhile hope to cultivate new Croatian signing Zoran Ban, 20, as a star for the future.

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Greece overcomes Spain in basketball

BERLIN (AP) — Athanasios Galaktopoulos' 3-point play with two seconds left Monday lifted Greece to a 76-75 victory over previously unbeaten Spain at the European Basketball championship.

Italy, a power in European basketball and the silver medalist in 1991, was eliminated from the tournament after being trounced 95-69 by Russia.

The final two spots in the eight-team field for the finals were wrapped up Monday when Germany beat Turkey 77-64 and Bosnia-Herzegovina shipped past Latvia 102-97.

Despite resting several starters, Croatia breezed past Estonia 98-80 for its sixth win without a loss in the tournament.

Bosnia-Herzegovina's win over Latvia was led by Sabahudin Bilalovic with 36 points and Mario Primorac with 25. Both centres have averaged over 28 points-a-game during the tournament.

France eliminated Belgium 83-65. The team has lost only one game — 100-95 in overtime to Croatia.

Russia got 24 points from Sergei Bazarevich and 23 from centre Andrei Fetisov in the win over Italy, which collapsed after leading 48-44 at the half.

Lemond's career in question

PARIS (AP) — Greg Lemond made cycling history. Now his career may be history.

The three-time Tour de France champion won't even make it to the starting line this year because of an energy-sapping allergy — the latest in a series of mishaps and failures that have plagued Lemond the last three years and raised questions about his future as a top cyclist.

This season, the 32-year-old American has displayed none of the form that helped him win cycling's most prestigious race in 1986, 1989 and 1990.

Lemond has provided some of the greatest thrills at the Tour de France, including the breathtaking final time trial in 1989 when he edged Frenchman Laurent Fignon by eight seconds, the closest finish in the tour's history.

Later that year, he won the Cycling World Championship for the second time, and the following year he won his third Tour de France. But it's been downhill since then.

In 1991, he suffered from an infection and finished seventh in the tour. Last year, he complained of exhaustion and dropped out in the Alps. After the race, he took some time off from cycling.

"I needed the rest," Lemond said. "I was really burned out. I was shattered physically."

Lemond vowed to come back strong this year. He set up base at his second home in Belgium, brought his family over from Minnesota and commuted to races.

But, he admitted, "when you get older, other things become more important in your life. Cycling is not the No. 1 priority to a cyclist who has a wife and kids."

Instead of climbing back to the top, Lemond dropped out of races on the first climb. He was almost 2½ behind in the Tour of Italy when he finally dropped out in the next-to-last stage.

Lemond suffered stomach aches and dysentery shortly before withdrawing from the Italian race. The press attributed his dismal performance to lack of preparation. Lemond did not comment.

Another try at a low-key race in Southern France found him gasping, 39 minutes behind, after the first climb. That caused him to return to Belgium for further medical tests.

"We knew from the first tests that Greg suffers from a chronic weakness and doesn't recuperate from his efforts," said his team director, Roger LeGeay.

There was a time when Lemond could ride in top form, day after day, while other cyclists would falter at least once.

It's hard to reconcile those memories with the cyclist who struggled up a mountain last July, far behind the main group. Lemond slowly coasted to a stop, tried to avoid pursuing photographers, and escaped to the safety of his team car, looking exhausted and beaten.

At the time, it seemed his career might be over. Now, it may be.

Penalty-saving king recalls feats

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (R) — Argentina's penalty-saving king Sergio Goycochea recalled memories of his 1990 World Cup feat with a curial save in the Copa America post-match shoot-out against Classic rivals Brazil.

Goycochea's save from Boaidoro gave Argentina a 6-5 victory on penalties after a 1-1 draw and put the holders into a semifinal with Colombia Thursday.

"The most emotional shoot-out was against Italy because it was a World Cup and it meant we reached the final," Goycochea, called "Goyco" by his team mates, said in an interview on Monday.

Goycochea saved two penalties against Italy in a semifinal shoot-out in Naples in July 1990 after Diego Maradona's Argentina held the World Cup hosts 1-1 after extra time.

He first hit the headlines when he came on as a substitute at a crucial moment in the first round group clash with the Soviet Un-

ion.

Nery Pumpido, goalkeeper of Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning side, broke his leg in a collision with a team mate and Goycochea weathered a Soviet storm before his side settled down and went on to win 2-0.

After helping struggling Argentina to a surprise second round 1-0 win over Brazil in Turin, Goycochea saved two penalties in a quarter-final shoot-out against Yugoslavia after a 0-0 draw in Florence.

Goycochea, who has never lost a shoot-out playing for his country, said that his save from Boaidoro Sunday was possibly his best.

"The Brazilian players are the most difficult (to face), at least on paper," he said.

Goycochea, who turns 30 in October, is returning to his first club River Plate next season from Olimpia of Paraguay.

He has saved eight penalties for Argentina, seven in shoot-outs, in 30 internationals.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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DEAD FROM THE START

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A
♥ A J 8 4
♦ Q J 10 8 7 6
♣ K 10

WEST EAST
♠ 10 8 7 3 2 ♠ K Q 9 6 5
♥ 9 8 2 ♥ 3
♦ 8 2 ♦ 5 4
♣ A 6 ♣ Q 8 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ K Q 10 7 6
♦ A K 9
♣ J 9 7 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: ♠

The 1992 World Bridge Olympiad, held in Salsomaggiore, Italy, at the end of August, had a new look about it. Taking part for the first time were several "new" countries, including the Confederation of Independent States (formerly part of the USSR), Croatia and Slovenia.

Terence Reese once wrote: "There is no such thing as a blind opening lead; just deaf opening lead."

With no clue other than the

sacked ndwriting

CONCORD
Tel.: 677420
No Where To Run
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA
Tel.: 699238
Happy Eld Al Adia
Adel Imam — in
The Forgotten
Arabic
Spring Fever U.S.A.
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Show: 5 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA
Tel.: 634144
Far and Away
FAR AND AWAY
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Tel.: 675571
For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled:
The Assassination of Yasser Arafat
by artist Saeed Bhat
Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m.
Please book seats in advance

Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155
ANLAN THEATRE
The last two weeks
- Welcome New World Order
- Welcome Parliament and Budget
The theatre will close at 11:30 in a special start presenting two new plays:
Welcome an Arab Summit and Nabil and Hisham in School during the Jerash Festival

Israeli troops given licence to kill, rights group says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An international human rights group Tuesday accused Israeli leaders of giving undercover units of the security forces "a licence to kill" that has led to the deaths of at least 120 Palestinians.

"The fact that undercover units affect many arrests or that they sometimes face mortal danger, cannot excuse their resort to murder in other cases," said the U.S.-based monitoring group Middle East Watch.

"The unjustified killings for which they are responsible are not aberrations, but rather constitute a pattern that could only continue with the complicity of the Israeli government."

Middle East Watch's 187-page report, entitled "A Licence to Kill," said at least 120 Palestinians had been killed by squads operating in disguise since the revolt against Israeli rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It said about half of those had died since the beginning of 1992, with more than 30 Palestinians killed by the squads since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin took office last July. Mr. Rabin had established the squads while defence minister in 1988, but kept their existence secret.

Elite undercover units take part in "premeditated assassinations" and "summary executions," middle East Watch director Kenneth Roth said.

In the report, which urges the United States to tie aid to Israel to human rights, the group found from examination of the killings of 20 Palestinians last year and at

the start of 1993 "a pattern of unjustified lethal force by special units."

The forces, routinely disguised as Palestinian civilians, are bound by law enforcement rules that same as police that require minimum use of force unless facing mortal danger.

"But they violate both Israeli and international law," Mr. Roth told a press conference. "The military command gives the special units licence to behave as if they were engaged in a military conflict, using tactics such as shooting to kill and shooting on sight," said the report.

The group, a division of Human Rights Watch, said only a minority of those killed were wanted.

"Most... are suspected stone-throwers and youths wearing masks whose identities are not known... but who are routinely shot while posing no imminent mortal danger to the soldiers or others."

Out of the 20 documented killings, just two men were carrying firearms and four wanted. In only one case did the army claim that a Palestinian tried to shoot before being killed, Middle East Watch alleged. Seven of the 20 were under 16 years old.

The group interviewed five soldiers, one of whom, identified as Sergeant A and formerly of an elite combat unit, told of shoot-to-kill ambushes. He detailed a briefing in which an officer said the objective was to "stick" a Palestinian, using Hebrew army slang for kill.

The Israeli army issued a denial of the charges, terming the title of the study "maliciously misleading and totally untrue."

The report by Middle East Watch is the latest in a stream of charges by human rights groups that Israel has a shoot-to-kill policy.

"In many cases, the victims posed little or no grave danger to others, were given no opportunity to surrender and could in all probability have been captured alive," said the report.

"In at least one case, security force agents executed their victim after he was in de facto custody, this is when he was posing no threat and has no real possibility of escape."

Under Israeli rules, soldiers are supposed to shout a warning, fire in the air and only then shoot at legs of fleeing Palestinians. Detailed regulations have not been released.

Middle East Watch said the regulations had allowed soldiers to shoot dead hundreds of Palestinians during the five years of clashes but focused on the undercover units, which it said had even "targeted individual Palestinians for assassination."

"We are aware of only one court-martial resulting from the 17 cases presented in this report in which we believe there was unjust killing by soldiers," it said. "Even in that single case, the light punishment sent the wrong signal: A partially suspended sentence and only three months behind bars for shooting a 12-year-old boy in the back."



COMRADES-IN-ARMS: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and South African leader Nelson Mandela huddle together Tuesday during the Organisation of African Unity summit in Cairo (AFP photo)

Security Council warns Iraq on border

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council Monday rejected Iraq's protest of a U.N. boundary that restricts Iraq's access to the Gulf and warned of serious consequences of a violation.

The action was taken the day after the United States presented evidence that it said proved Iraq plotted to kill former President George Bush. U.N. officials said that plot justified the missile attack on Baghdad.

The council took no action on the U.S.-Iraq confrontation, ignoring Iraq's protest that the missile attack was an act of U.S. aggression.

The council, however, has turned its attention to other issues of Iraq's compliance with the Gulf war ceasefire agreement.

Iraq in a June 6 letter protested the location of a U.N. boundary set under the ceasefire giving Kuwait half of the strategic Khor Abdullah, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf. Iraq previously controlled the entire waterway.

Iraq said the boundary commission's mandate did not include the waterway and complained that the new boundary virtually landlocks Iraq.

But the council in a statement said Iraq must respect the boundary.

"The council wishes to stress to Iraq the inviolability of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait... and the serious consequences that would ensue from any breach thereof," said the statement, read aloud by the council president, Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo, the ambassador of Spain who heads the council this month.

The Iraqi protest said Iraq has spent billions of dollars over the years on channels, navigation lanes and ports in the Khor Abdullah.

"The imposition of the boundary presents a grave threat to Iraq's right to enjoy freedom of access to the sea by exercising its historic right to unrestricted and safe navigation in the area," he said.

He repeated Iraq's rejection of the boundary commission, saying its actions "represent a purely political decision imposed by the powers dominating the Security Council and the U.N., particularly the United States and the United Kingdom."

The dispute over the boundary commission is only one of various issues between Iraq and the United Nations. Others include Iraq's refusal to permit long-term monitoring cameras at missile sites and to divulge its complete list of foreign suppliers to its prohibited weapons programmes.

A U.N. spokesman in Bahrain said U.N. experts charged with Iraq's disarmament resumed work Monday after a one-day interruption caused by the U.S. missile strike on Baghdad.

Russian expert Nikita Smidovich remained in Iraq awaiting Baghdad's approval to install surveillance cameras at missile test sites.

The Security Council has warned of "serious consequences" if Iraq rejects the installation of the cameras.

Clinton's warning

President Bill Clinton warned Monday that he would not hesitate to retaliate again if Iraq continues violence or state-sponsored "terrorism" against the United States.

The warning was made in a letter to the speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Senate majority leader, the text of which was released by the White House.

Washington 'favours' Saddam's departure

Media 'misled'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department said Monday that the departure of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is Washington's "preference" for improved relations with Baghdad.

The statement came in response to journalists' questions about whether any hope remained for the Iraqi leader's redemption in the wake of Sunday's U.S. cruise missile strike on the Iraqi intelligence services headquarters, in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush.

"I think the prospects for redemption relate very directly to full compliance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said. "That would be the shorthand way of saying that we expect full compliance with those resolutions."

Asked whether that implies the departure of President Saddam, Mr. McCurry said, "that would be our preference."

Just before taking office in January, President Bill Clinton raised eyebrows by suggesting that relations could improve with Baghdad if the Iraqi leader "redeemed" himself.

On Sunday, Vice President Al Gore said the missile attack "was not to convince the Iraqi people to rise up and overthrow Saddam," but he added, "we would like that to happen."

Mr. Gore said Washington had received very strong statements of support from a number of our key friends and allies on the Sunday. He also rejected the characterization of the attack as based on a "double standard" that does not apply in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The attack... was in response to a direct threat against the United States of America requiring a unilateral response," he said. "These are just not similar situations."

White House spokesman Dee Dee Myers acknowledged Monday that the shroud of secrecy surrounding the U.S. missile strike on Baghdad made her unintentionally misled the press.

Appearing uneasy and sounding upset, Ms. Myers said she learned Saturday, just a few hours beforehand, of the planned Tomahawk cruise missile strike on Iraq's intelligence command centre that was launched later that day.

President Clinton's decision to order the attack was made Friday, following his review of intelligence including a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report on the alleged plot to kill Mr. Bush, administration officials have said.

At her daily press briefing Friday, Ms. Myers said, "We hear that (the FBI) report is in its final phases, but it's not complete."

Monday, she insisted "it was a honest mistake" and "something we'll try to change in the future."

"It was an oversight," the spokeswoman said. "There was never any intention of misleading the media."

The New York Times reported that only five White House advisers were informed of the planned strike: National Security Adviser Anthony Lake; his deputy, Sandy Berger; White House Chief of Staff Mack McLarty; and the president's two personal advisers, George Stephanopoulos and David Gergen. The White House press service was kept out of the loop, the New York Times said.

Ms. Myers stressed Monday that she had said the report was not ready based on information given her by another administration official, who also was in the dark. "I asked the question, but I asked the wrong person," she said.

Artillery duels rage in S. Lebanon

AL MANSOUREH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Artillery, rocket and machinegun duels raged in South Lebanon Tuesday, killing child, wounding seven people and causing extensive material damage, security sources said.

They said the violence erupted when pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas attacked Hamra, a crossing point into Israel's self-styled "security zone," and clashed with Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen.

Fighting with rockets and machineguns escalated into artillery duels when guerrillas fired at three militia posts. Israeli and SLA forces pounded areas near four villages to the north and a mountainous ridge where Hizbollah is active.

Two SLA militiamen were wounded and three Lebanese civilians were lightly injured at the crossing, the sources said.

Guerrillas fired at the three SLA posts and a radar position with about 40 mortar bombs and Katyusha rockets. Israeli and SLA gunners hit back by firing about 130 rounds of heavy artillery, wounding one civilian.

Later in the day, Hizbollah (Party of God) guerrillas detonated a bomb by remote control as an armoured Israeli patrol was passing between Rihane and Aishiyeh villages on the edge of the zone. There were no reports of casualties.

A 10-year-old boy was later killed and a man wounded in the village of Shaqra by machinegun fire from Israeli or SLA forces.

The machinegun fire also hit two other villages to the north of Shaqra, just outside the zone.

The Israeli and SLA shelling sparked a blaze in Al Mansoureh village, where several houses and shops were badly damaged and three cars destroyed. Extensive material damage was also reported in two nearby villages.

Villagers expressed fears the violence would escalate and said they were considering leaving their houses as they had no bunkers to hide in.

Israeli troops shot dead two Hizbollah guerrillas in a clash north of the zone Monday, Israeli military sources said.

The guerrillas were ambushed and killed on the edge of the eastern sector of Israel's "security zone."

They were trying to infiltrate into the town of Hasbaya, said the source.

The Israeli military said its soldiers killed "two terrorists" belonging to Hizbollah in a clash. It said no Israelis were hurt.

Tension has been high in South Lebanon, the only active Arab-Israeli battle front, as Middle East peace talks dragged without progress in Washington.

Hizbollah, which has vowed to wreck the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has been waging a guerrilla war to dislodge Israel from the 1,100-square-kilometre enclave, which has a predominantly Shiite population of 200,000.

Bomb 'joke' lands U.K. government in trouble

LONDON (R) — The accident-prone British government suffered fresh embarrassment when its Northern Ireland secretary had to apologise for a flippant remark about a grenade blast in Belfast. Sir Patrick Mayhew said he much regretted any distress caused by his stray remark comparing the toll of Saturday's blast with the plot of an opera in which several characters ended up dead.

Sir Patrick was on his way to a performance of Donizetti's Lucia De Lammermoor when he was told by a radio reporter that a blast during a Protestant parade had injured 28 people. "No nobody dead. At the end of this opera everybody's dead," was his spontaneous response, captured on tape. Apparently aware of possible blunder, Sir Patrick followed it up quickly: "It's a very bad joke about it. It's a very serious thing from what I hear and I am not joking about it in the slightest way." But tabloid newspapers took him to task over the casual tone of his response to the latest injuries in the bitter guerrilla conflict over control of the province. "Fury over bomb joke minister" boomed the headline on the London Evening Standard. Angry Northern Irish politicians demanded an apology. Sir Patrick expressed his regret in a letter to the Labour Party's spokesman on Northern Ireland, Kevin McNamara, in which he said the controversial remark was an expression of relief that no one was killed.

More than 50 Bangladeshis hurt in brawl

DHAKA (R) — Villagers armed with spears, swords, knives and axes fought in northern Bangladesh, injuring more than 50 people, police said Tuesday. The fighting erupted Monday after a man slapped a rickshaw-puller in Faridpur district, a police officer said. The victim told his relatives about the incident and shortly after hundreds of neighbours arrived armed with primitive weapons seeking vengeance, the officer said. Several policemen trying to stop the fighting were also injured, he told reporters.

Chinese police rescue 162 women sold into slavery

PEKING (R) — Chinese police smashed a crime ring and rescued 162 women whom the gang had abducted and forced into prostitution, a local newspaper reported. Police in the southern provinces of Hunan and Guangdong recently joined forces to arrest 86 members of the syndicate who kidnapped the women between November 1991 and this April. They were aided in the abductions by beauty salon managers and innkeepers, the June 26 edition of Hunan Daily said. It gave no further details. Abduction and enslavement of women, banned when the Chinese Communists took power in 1949, has resurfaced in recent years. Often the women are illiterate peasants tricked into accompanying men by promises of lucrative jobs in cities. Taken to distant provinces, the women are sold to farmers as slave brides or to brothels. Police last year rescued more than 10,000 women sold into slavery and acknowledge the problem is growing nationwide.

Half of Parisians do not wear seat-belts

PARIS (R) — Nearly half of all Paris drivers refuse to wear seat-belts in defiance of the law, a government study showed. The Transport Ministry survey showed that on average French drivers and front-seat passengers buckle up 62 per cent of the time in cities, but the rate falls to 53 per cent in Paris. Drivers in southern France are less inclined to wear seat-belts, with an average of about 40 per cent obeying the law, while in the north and east about 80 per cent comply, a ministry spokesman said. The survey was released to mark the 20th anniversary on July 1 of a decree requiring drivers and front-seat passengers to wear seat-belts outside of cities. The requirement was extended to cities at night in 1975 and has applied round-the-clock since 1979. Since 1990 rear-seat passengers have been required to wear seat-belts. The study showed that 94 per cent of drivers and front-seat passengers buckle up while on motorways. But only 30 per cent of rear-seat passengers wear their belts on motorways, with the rate even lower in cities and on secondary roads.

'Ambiguity' of press law sparks dispute

By Samsan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Controversy over the interpretation of articles in the six-week old Press and Publication Law have already risen to the surface. The ambiguity of some of the articles has led in this short period of time to a confrontation between journalists and the Department of Press and Publications (DPP), the primary publication-monitoring institution in Jordan.

Director of the DPP Issa Al Jahmani, in a letter to the editor-in-chief of "Al Ahali" weekly newspaper issued by the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (JDPP), stressed the need to abide by the Press and Publication Law. This letter came as a result of what Mr. Jahmani described as a violation of the law by the newspaper, referring to three articles published in its June 21 issue.

The first and most critical article, entitled "Flowers of the Intelligence Service," spoke sarcastically about the increasing vegetation surrounding the intelligence service (Mukhabarat) building implying that the beautiful site one sees on the outside is not similar to the treatment one witnesses on the inside.

What upset Mr. Jahmani most regarding the article was the presence of seven words, "It's built from marble on the outside..." — the first half a

famous Arabic proverb which ends with "and it's full with dirt on the inside."

The other two articles, which Mr. Jahmani at first criticised but later downplayed, addressed the problems in the Press and Publication Law and the imprisonment of a significant number of alleged Islamists without trial. According to Mr. Jahmani, the articles "damage" the reputation of the "security apparatus" because they are implicitly suggesting that the intelligence service bypasses the law and tortures prisoners.

"This is a defamation of our security apparatus," said Mr. Jahmani. "It is purely a legal matter." He maintained, basing his argument on Article 40 (Chapter 2) of the Press and Publication Law, which prohibits the publication of any material that "harms the security apparatus."

"This is only a notice," he said alluding to the letter. "If this is repeated again the DPP might take Al Ahali to court... in a democracy the judiciary system is the final arbitrator."

Nihad Abu Ghosh, an editor at the newspaper and a leading member of the JDPP, said: "The reasons given by Mr. Jahmani are not the main reasons behind the notice. Our party and newspaper's position on some issues do not go well with some people and that is the main reason for this warning."

Although the JDPP did not

support the passing of the Press and Publication Law, Mr. Abu Ghosh reaffirms the newspaper's commitment to the law.

"We did not violate the law," he said, explaining that the ambiguity of the law allows for people to interpret it in different ways. "Who decides what harms the security apparatus and what does not?" Mr. Abu Ghosh exclaimed. He stressed that what is important is the spirit of the law and the essence of democracy and not the ambiguous articles of the law.

When asked if Al Ahali will change its policy as a result of the warning, he stressed that the newspaper "will continue to fight to achieve freedom and human rights. Nothing will change."

"Now that the law is being applied, its problems are becoming more and more visible," said Salim Al Zoubi, member of the Lower House of Parliament, when asked to comment about the incident.

Mr. Zoubi, a lawyer, mentioned that he was among the parliamentarians who opposed Article 40 in the Press and Publication Law, but was not successful in revoking it.

Such an article leaves it open for those in power to interpret it the way they please and to their benefit, he stated. "In such cases it needs to be left up to the judicial system to determine whether it is the role of journalists to tell the truth and criticise the wrong or not."

Tension runs high in Iraq amid fears

(Continued from page 1)

on Monday night on Cable News Network.

The U.S. aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt sailed through the Suez Canal Tuesday on its way to the Red Sea to take part in enforcing a ban on Iraqi flights in southern Iraq, witnesses said.

In other related developments: One of the conservative Russian parliament's two chambers protested Tuesday against the U.S. raid on Iraq which President Boris Yeltsin's government has strongly backed.

The other, the Council of Nationalities, looked likely to protest Wednesday. A resolution passed overwhelmingly by the Council of the Republic said the U.S. action "contradicts international law and revives the cult of force in international relations."

Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi denounced the U.S. strike on Iraq as immoral and blasted the Russian foreign ministry for supporting it.

Mr. Rutskoi said it could only be regretted that Russia had been among the first to approve of this "illegal" action, without consulting parliament.

"Once again Russia, thanks to the efforts of the radical democrats, is bobbing along in the wake of U.S. policy, ignoring not only its own national interests but also renouncing any idea of morality or decency in foreign

policy," Polish President Lech Walesa criticised the U.S. raid and suggested Washington was taking on the role of "world policeman."

The Dalai Lama criticised the U.S. attack as "very, very unfortunate." He said he wished America could have found less violent ways to increase pressure on Baghdad.

The exiled Tibetan head of state and spiritual leader also said it was "a bit unfair" to blame the Iraqi president for all of Iraq's aggression and international defiance.

"My heart went a little bit towards him... Saddam Hussein's dictatorship did not come out from sky by himself, but many nations were involved to create that situation. Without his army, without his weapons, Saddam Hussein as one single person cannot be a dictatorship," he said.

Iraqi opposition leaders in exile criticised the U.S. attack for the civilian deaths it caused and stressed that the real goal remained the overthrow of President Saddam.

Mohammad Taqi Modarresi, head of the Islamic Action Organisation, charged in a statement issued in Damascus that Sunday's missile strike on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in downtown Baghdad "avoided targeting the real criminal (Saddam) in order to

punish the country and its oppressed people."

"It is necessary to get rid of Saddam Hussein to end the tragedy of the Iraqi people," Mr. Modarresi added.

In another statement here, Al Daarwa, the oldest opposition force, said "The American action has an unjustifiable reprisal strike against Iraq and the Iraqi people, who suffer at the hands of both Saddam Hussein and Americans."

American-backed President Clinton's decision to bomb Iraq's intelligence headquarters by nearly a four-to-one margin and his popularity rose sharply after the weekend attack, an opinion poll said.

The CBS News/New York Times survey found that 66 per cent of those polled said they supported the attack on Baghdad, while just 17 per cent said they opposed it.

The survey, done in two stages, also found that Mr. Clinton's overall approval rating was boosted by the mission.

Of the 1,363 people surveyed on June 21-24, just before the raid, 39 per cent approved of Mr. Clinton's overall performance, while 46 per cent disapproved.

In calls back to 622 of the same group Sunday evening, Mr. Clinton's approval rating shot up to 50 per cent with 43 per cent disapproving.